



Obama seeks \$2 billion in research on clean fuels

President Barack Obama gestures as he speaks at Argonne National Laboratory in Argonne, Ill., Friday, March 15, 2013. The president urged congress to authorize \$200 million a year for research into clean energy technologies that can wean automobiles off oil.

(AP Photo/M. Spencer Green)

JOHN M. BRODER

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WASHINGTON – With few options available for financing his clean-energy ambitions, President Barack Obama on Friday proposed diverting \$2 billion in revenue from federal oil and gas leases over the next decade to pay for research on advanced vehicles. Obama visited the Argonne National Laboratory near Chicago to tour

its state-of-the-art research facilities and to promote his idea, first proposed in last month's State of the Union address, to use oil and gas money to find ways to replace hydrocarbons as the primary fuel for the nation's cars, trucks and buses.

The idea enjoys some bipartisan and business support, but is likely to encounter strong resistance from congressional Republicans, who will portray it as a tax

on energy producers. The White House says the money will come from growth in drilling revenue from leases on public lands and waters over the next decade and is not a new tax. Obama presented the proposal as part of his "all-of-the-above energy strategy," which includes an increase in oil and gas development; support for nonpolluting sources like wind, solar and geothermal energy; loan guarantees

for new nuclear plants; and research into long-term alternatives to fossil fuels. Obama has given up on moving comprehensive climate change legislation through Congress and has ruled out a carbon tax as a way to finance the development of alternative energy sources, so he is pursuing smaller-scale projects that do not require new sources of revenue. The Energy Security Trust, as he

calls his proposal to shift oil and gas royalties to alternative energy research, is one of those projects.

A White House official, who discussed the president's proposal on the condition of anonymity in advance of Friday's speech, said that the energy trust was a central part of the administration's economic strategy.

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Aruba Celebrates National Flag & Anthem Day, Monday, March 18th!

Hugo Chavez coffin parades past Venezuela's ills

**E. CASTILLO
JACK CHANG**
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — The road from the military academy where Hugo Chavez's body has been lying in state to the hilltop museum where he'll be displayed indefinitely is lined with some of the most dangerous slums on the planet. It runs under bridges in dire need of repair and past grocery stores with no groceries.

Tens of thousands of Venezuelans gathered along that route Friday to watch the late president's body cross the city in yet another choreographed show designed to keep Chavez supporters in thrall, at least until an April 14 election scheduled to replace him. Afterward, people will have to go on living with the problems that Chavez left behind.

This tense, relentlessly gray capital embodies many of Venezuela's problems, with crumbling apartment towers and food lines often sharing the same sidewalk with cheering crowds eager to greet their departed Comandante.

"More than anything, the government continues fighting with everyone, and does everything badly," said Francisco Olivero, a 54-year-old carpenter who lives with his wife and five children in the poor neighborhood of Catia, just blocks from the funeral

route. Like many Venezuelans, Olivero said wartime-levels of street violence all over the city were his top worry. "They kill people here every day," he said. "I've lost friends, relatives." Even as thousands of

to come by for about two years. The store, which sat along the most trafficked part of the route, happened to be selling the rare goods that day, drawing a crowd of people desperate for a few bags of

topping 20 percent have made it impossible for store owners to sell basic foods at a profit, sparking widespread shortages. For their part, officials have accused suppliers of hoarding the goods and have invaded warehouses



The coffin containing the remains of Venezuela's late President Hugo Chavez is carried from the military academy, at the start of a procession to the military museum, his final resting place, in Caracas, Venezuela, Friday, March 15, 2013. Venezuelans lined up to bid their last farewell to Hugo Chavez on Friday.

bused-in police academy cadets gathered along the route, Olivero and his wife Yelitza Acuna were hiding from the sun while waiting in a block-long line to buy flour, coffee, butter and other food staples that they said have been hard

flour. "The word spread in the street, and we all came running here," said Olivero's wife, Yelitza Acuna, a cook's assistant. Economists say government-imposed price controls designed to dampen inflation

looking for sugar, flour and other food items in short supply. "You can't find anything," said 27-year-old lawyer Anglys Bericote, who rode a bus for four hours from the town of Cajigal to view the funeral cortege. □

(AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

In response to North Korean Threats:

US to strengthen West Coast missile defense

ROBERT BURNS
AP National Security

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration will add 14 interceptors to a West Coast-based missile defense system, reflecting concern about North Korea's focus on developing nuclear weapons and its advances in long-range missile technology, officials said Friday. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel planned to announce the decision later Friday. It was first reported by Fox News. In advance of Hagel's announcement, defense of-

ficials confirmed the decision on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss it publicly. The Pentagon intends to add the 14 interceptors to 30 already in place in California and Alaska. That will expand the system's ability to shoot down long-range missiles in flight before they could reach U.S. territory. James Miller, defense undersecretary for policy, said in a speech Tuesday that the Pentagon has the ability to deploy up to 14 additional missile inter-

ceptors, "if needed." He did not say in the speech that a decision had been made to do so. Miller also said the Pentagon is studying three alternative sites for deploying still more interceptors in the U.S., if needed. He said that would provide options for building an interceptor base on the East Coast or adding more interceptors in Alaska, "should either approach become necessary due to further future increases in the threat from Iran and North Korea." The threat of a missile strike from North Korea was the

rationale for building the missile defense sites in Alaska and California during the administration of President George W. Bush. Technical difficulties with the interceptors slowed the pace at which they were installed in California and Alaska.

"Our policy is to stay ahead of the threat — and to continue to ensure that we are ahead of any potential future Iranian or North Korean ICBM (intercontinental ballistic missile) capability," Miller said in Tuesday's speech. □

Woman killed, child raped in NY mall attack

GEORGE M. WALSH
Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — An upstate New York man previously charged with having child pornography cut an electronic monitoring device off his ankle before carjacking a woman, fatally stabbing her and raping her 10-year-old daughter, authorities said. David J. Renz, 29, abducted a school librarian and her daughter as they left a gymnastics class at a mall in the Syracuse suburb of Clay at about 9 p.m. Thursday, state police said Friday. Troopers said he bound both victims, raped the child and drove a short distance to a spot where the girl managed to escape and was found by a passing motorist.

The motorist told 911 dispatchers he saw a man running away from the scene, allowing police to quickly send in officers on the ground and a sheriff's helicopter in the air. Renz was caught a short time later near a wooded area. It wasn't clear how the girl escaped or when her mother was killed. "We're still trying to piece the timeline together," said Trooper Jack Keller. The child was being treated at a hospital Friday. Her mother died from multiple stab wounds. Renz had been charged in January with possession of child pornography and allowed to remain free under terms that included staying off the Internet and away from places including schools, parks and arcades. Federal authorities said he cut his electronic monitoring device off his ankle shortly before Thursday's attacks. He was arraigned Friday morning on murder, rape and kidnapping charges. Ken Moynihan, the lawyer assigned to his case, didn't initially return a call seeking comment. Renz was being held without bail. The Associated Press doesn't publish information that could identify potential sex-crime victims and isn't naming the woman to protect the child's identity. □

Few protests on 2nd anniversary of Syrian uprising

**KARIN LAUB
ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press**

BEIRUT (AP) — On the second anniversary of Syria's uprising, there were only small protests and a few firecrackers defiantly popping in the capital of Damascus — a grim contrast to the early days when crowds of demonstrators danced to the drums of rebellion against President Bashar Assad.

Syrians on Friday marked the start of the revolt by saying they feared for their country's future amid a grinding civil war that has killed tens of thousands, displaced millions, wrecked whole neighborhoods in cities and towns, and turned neighbor against neighbor.

Assad has been digging in, mobilizing loyal forces for a protracted battle, while Western powers remain opposed to arming the Syrian opposition, even if Britain and France this week began pushing for lifting a European Union arms embargo.

Rebels have made slow progress in recent months, seizing large swaths of the countryside, particularly in the north and sparsely populated east, while Assad managed to protect his seat of power, Damascus, and keep control of parts of Aleppo and the city of Homs.

"Bashar Assad really does not feel that he is about to lose anytime soon," said Salman Shaikh, an analyst at the Brookings Doha Center. "He feels there is no Western resolve up to now. He feels he's got enough forces."

Many Syrians worry that their country won't recover from the growing sectarian hatred.

Most rebels are Sunni Muslims, the majority sect in Syria, while the country's Christian and Shiite Muslim minorities appear to have sided largely with Assad, a member of the Alawites, an offshoot of Shiite Islam, in what they view as a fight for survival.

"The country has forever

changed," said an 18-year-old opposition activist speaking from Damascus via Skype and asking to be identified only as Abu Qais, for fear of regime reprisals. "There's too much hate.

Gen. Salim Idris, the head of the Supreme Military Council, urged Syrian soldiers to join the rebels in a "fight for freedom and democracy." In a video address obtained by The Associated

Press, he said from an undisclosed location in northern Syria: "Dear friends, the Free Syrian Army (fighters) will not give up."

The Syrian opposition has appealed to the West to

send heavy weapons, including anti-aircraft guns, to break the battlefield stalemate and protect civilians against the regime's airstrikes. In recent months, Assad has intensified those attacks, even firing ballistic missiles at Aleppo, the country's largest city.

The U.S. and several EU member states oppose arming the rebels, for fear of further inflaming the conflict and seeing weapons fall into the hands of Islamic extremists, who are increasingly dominant in key areas of battle.

However, the leaders of Britain and France this week began pushing for lifting the EU ban on sending weapons to Syria.

French President Francois Hollande and British Prime Minister David Cameron argued at an EU summit Friday that Assad will only negotiate the terms of a political transition if he no longer feels he can win militarily. □



Jordanian and Syrian children participate in a candlelit vigil to mark the second anniversary of the Syrian revolution at the Citadel in Amman, Jordan, Thursday, March, 14, 2013.

(AP Photo/Raad Adayleh)

People have changed."

He said he dropped out of high school to join the uprising but now hopes to emigrate at the first opportunity, saying the fighting has set Syria back decades.

Khalid Saleh, a spokesman for the main political opposition group in exile, the Syrian National Coalition, was more optimistic. He said those trying to bring down Assad have momentum on their side.

The 72-member leadership of the coalition meets next week in Istanbul to choose a prime minister, who would set up an interim government to run rebel-held areas, mainly in the north and east of the country, Saleh said. The government would operate from Turkey and the rebel-controlled areas, he added.

"Probably within the next six months, we will have the government in Damascus," Saleh said from Istanbul. After fighting ends, Syria will have to go through a healing process of several years, he said. "I am definitely optimistic," he added.

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At CPAC:

Romney says 'sorry' he's not president, will help GOP

**STEVE PEOPLES
KEN THOMAS**

Associated Press

OXON HILL, Md. (AP) — Republican Mitt Romney told conservative activists Friday that he's sorry he's not their president but promised to work alongside them to help strengthen the Republican Party.

"Each of us in our own way will have to step up and meet our responsibility," Romney told a crowded ballroom at the Conservative Political Action Conference, a three-day political summit in suburban Washington.

"I am sorry that I will not be your president," the 2012 Republican presidential nominee said during his first



Former Massachusetts Gov. and 2012 Republican presidential candidate, Mitt Romney speaks at the 40th annual Conservative Political Action Conference in National Harbor, Md., Friday, March 15, 2013.

(AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

public speech since last fall's election loss. "But I will be your co-worker, and I will work shoulder-to-shoulder alongside you."

Romney's conservative credentials were sometimes questioned during his presidential campaign, but he was greeted with a roaring ovation and interrupted by applause several times during his brief remarks. Advisers said his appearance was designed to thank conservatives for backing his candidacy.

Romney won the conference's straw poll one year ago, when he described himself as "severely conservative." He did not repeat that phrase on Friday, but he did borrow heavily from his campaign trail speech. Romney referred to the same furniture upholsterer and truck driver he cited almost daily as he crisscrossed the country last year.

The former Massachusetts governor is not expected

to play a leading role in the future of the Republican Party, but he said, "It's up to us to make sure that we learn from our mistakes, and my mistakes."

He encouraged conservatives to study the successes of the nation's 30 Republican governors and praised the "clear and convincing voice" of his former running mate, Wisconsin Rep. Paul Ryan, who spoke in the same ballroom earlier in the day.

"Of course, I left the race disappointed that I didn't win," Romney said. "But I also left honored and humbled to have represented the values we believe in and to speak for so many good and decent people." He also struck the same optimistic tone of his campaign's final weeks.

"I utterly reject pessimism," Romney said. "We may not have carried on Nov. 7, but we have not lost the country we love, and we have not lost our way." □

Obama seeks \$2 billion

Continued from front

"In the State of the Union, he asked what can we do to make America a magnet for the jobs of future," the official said in a telephone briefing Thursday afternoon.

"One key answer is to ensure that the United States is and remains at the cutting edge of breakthrough technologies that will get our economy off oil."

Obama came to office with grand ambitions of remaking the nation's energy economy and tackling climate change. His stimulus package included \$90 billion for clean-energy research, but most of that money is gone and Congress is unlikely to finance such work at anything like those levels in the future.

The Argonne National Laboratory, which has done groundbreaking research in vehicle battery technology that has helped jump-

start the electric car industry in America, received a large chunk of the stimulus money.

Now, it is facing reductions under the mandatory budget cuts known as the sequester.

The laboratory's director, Eric D. Isaacs, who will greet the president Friday, warned this week that the spending cuts would have a devastating impact as "the nation begins to feel the loss of important new scientific ideas that now will not be explored, and of brilliant young scientists who now will take their talents overseas or perhaps even abandon research entirely."

White House officials said the president hoped to use some of the added revenue from the nation's oil and gas boom to replace basic research money lost by the mandatory budget cuts and the expiration of the stimulus funds. □

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Senator's shift on gay marriage vexes Republicans

ANN SANNER
C. BABINGTON
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Republican senator's embrace of gay marriage is the latest sign of soul-searching in a party struggling to adapt in a U.S. society whose demographics — and views on emotional issues — are changing fast. Gay marriage still divides the party, with the conservative wing strongly opposed. But an increasing number of Republicans, now including Sen. Rob Portman, are reversing course. Many others simply play down the subject.

Portman announced Friday that he now supports gay marriage, linking his stand to learning that one of his sons is gay. Portman's reversal makes him the only Republican to openly back gay marriage in the Senate, which now has one openly gay member. With the issue of immigration also shifting rapidly under Republicans' feet, they seem increasingly focused — and united — on one overarching goal: keeping income taxes from rising. Their solidarity on that issue is thwarting President Barack Obama's efforts to find a compromise approach to deficit spending and expensive social programs.

These trends raise the possibility that the Republican party — reeling after losing the popular vote in five of the last six presidential elections — will lessen its identity with hot-button social issues and sharpen its emphasis on tax and spending matters. Polls show that American public opinion on gay rights, including same-sex marriage, has shifted perhaps more rapidly than

on any other major issue in recent times. In Gallup polling last November, 53 percent of adult Americans said same-sex marriages should be granted the same status as tradi-

same-sex marriage.

"I have come to believe that if two people are prepared to make a lifetime commitment to love and care for each other in good times and in bad,

the senator represents.

He said he had talked to his pastor and others, including Senate Republican Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, who opposes gay marriage, and to for-

his announcement in June 2009.

Portman said his previous views on marriage were rooted in his Methodist faith. However, he wrote, "Ultimately, for me, it came down to the Bible's overarching themes of love and compassion and my belief that we are all children of God."

Despite his party's struggles with Americans' increasing acceptance of gay rights, many Republican leaders met Portman's news with silence or a shrug.

A spokesman for House Speaker John Boehner, said the senator "is a great friend and ally, and the speaker respects his position, but the speaker continues to believe that marriage is between a man and a woman."

In January, Boehner chastised the Obama administration for dropping its legal defense of the Defense of Marriage Act, which the Supreme Court is to consider this month. Boehner authorized the continued use of public funds to defend the law in courts. □



U.S. Sen. Rob Portman, from left, with his wife, Jane, daughter Sally, and son Will, stands after announcing that he will run for the U.S. Senate, in Lebanon, Ohio. Portman is now supporting gay marriage and says his reversal on the issue began when he learned his son Will is gay.

(AP Photo/David Kohl)

tional marriages, while 46 percent felt they should not be valid. Those figures were nearly reversed two years earlier. In 1996, when Gallup first asked about gay marriages, 27 percent felt they should be valid.

A former U.S. trade representative and White House budget chief, Portman is seen as one of the party's most knowledgeable and effective leaders. Presidential candidate Mitt Romney considered him to be his running mate last year. Portman said he told Romney of his son Will's sexuality but does not believe it affected Romney's decision.

As a U.S. House member in 1996, Portman supported the Defense of Marriage Act, or DOMA. It defines marriage as between a man and a woman and bars federal recognition of

the government shouldn't deny them the opportunity to get married," Portman wrote in an editorial page article in The Columbus Dispatch, a newspaper in the capital of Ohio, the state

mer Vice President Dick Cheney, who supports it. Cheney, whose younger daughter is a lesbian, became arguably the best-known Republican to embrace gay marriage with



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Journalist's lawyer: Prank doesn't merit prison

**GARANCE BURKE
PAUL ELIAS**
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A lawyer for a Reuters editor accused of helping hackers deface a Los Angeles Times story said Friday that the journalist didn't commit the crime, but even if he did, it was a prank that shouldn't send anyone to prison for 25 years.

"No one was hurt, there were no lasting injuries, no one's identity was stolen, lives weren't ruined," said Matthew Keys' attorney, Jay Leiderman. "It was a joke, and I guess a joke will get you 25 years in prison." News agency Reuters has suspended Keys with pay after he was indicted on federal charges of conspiring with the hacking group Anonymous to deface the online story.

Reuters spokesman David Girardin told The Associated Press on Friday in an email that Keys, a deputy social media editor, was suspended on Thursday with pay. He did not elaborate.

Federal authorities allege that in December 2010, Keys, 26, provided hackers with login information to access the computer system of the Tribune Co., the parent company of the Times that also owns a California television station. Keys was fired from months before.

Investigators allege that he gave a hacker named "Sharpie" the information in an Internet chat room frequented by hackers and urged the hacker to do some damage to the Tribune Co.

According to the indictment, Sharpie altered a Times news story posted Dec. 14 and 15, 2010, to read "Pressure builds in House to elect CHIPPY

1337," a reference to another hacking group. "Chippy 1337" claimed responsibility for defacing the website of video game publisher Eidos in 2011.

Keys is charged with one count each of conspiracy to transmit information

Keys' Facebook page says he worked as an online news producer for the FOX affiliate KTXL from June 2008 to April 2010.

Reuters hired Keys in 2012 as a deputy editor for social media, and he was at work Thursday. He didn't

going to take a break. Tomorrow, business as usual." The indictment alleges that a second attempt to hack the Times was unsuccessful. Federal prosecutors allege in court papers that a legendary hacker and Anonymous leader named "Sabu" offered advice on how to infiltrate Tribune's systems. The FBI unmasked Sabu when it arrested Hector Xavier Monsegur on June 7, 2011. Monsegur secretly worked as an FBI informant until federal officials announced that he helped them arrest five other alleged hackers on March 6, 2012.

Federal officials declined to comment on whether Sabu assisted in the investigation of Keys.

The day after it was announced that Sabu was an FBI informant, Keys wrote a story for Reuters about "infiltrating" the hackers' chat room.

The indictment comes after recent hacks into the computer systems of two other U.S. media companies that own The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal. Both newspapers reported in February that their computer systems had been infiltrated by China-based hackers, likely to monitor media coverage the Chinese government deems important.

Anonymous and its offshoot, Lulz Security, have been linked to a number of high-profile computer attacks and crimes, including many that were meant to embarrass governments, federal agencies and corporate giants. They have been connected to attacks that took data from FBI partner organization InfraGard, and they've jammed websites of the CIA and the Public Broadcasting Service. □

Strictest state abortion ban goes forward

MacPHERSON
Associated Press

BISMARCK, North Dakota (AP) — North Dakota on Friday moved closer to adopting what would be the most restrictive abortion laws in the U.S., with lawmakers sending the governor measures that could set up a legal battle over the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark decision that legalized the procedure.

One bill would ban abortions as early as six weeks into a pregnancy, and another would prohibit the procedure because of genetic defects such as Down syndrome.

If the governor signs the measures, North Dakota would be the only state with those laws.

The American Civil Liberties Union called the measures "extreme," saying they would make North Dakota "the first state in the nation to ban most abortions."

Supporters of the measures said their goal is to challenge the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling that legalized abortion up until a fetus is considered viable, usually at 22 to 24 weeks.

Abortion remains one of the most sensitive issues in the U.S., and several states have tried to chip away at the Supreme Court ruling.

"It's a good day for babies," said Rep. Bette Grande, a Republican who introduced both bills. Abortion-rights advocates say the measures are meant to shut down the state's only abortion clinic. Republican Gov. Jack Dalrymple hasn't said anything to indicate he won't approve the measures. □



A worker cleans an entrance to the Los Angeles Times building in Los Angeles. Federal authorities allege that Matthew Keys provided hackers with login information to access the Tribune Company's computer system in December 2010.

(AP Photo/Ric Francis)

to damage a protected computer, as well as transmitting and attempting to transmit that information. If convicted, he faces a combined 25 years prison and a \$500,000 fine if sentenced to the maximum for each count.

He is scheduled for arraignment April 12.

return a phone call or respond to email messages seeking comment.

"I'm okay," he tweeted Friday.

"I am fine," Keys tweeted Thursday, hours after his federal indictment was announced. "I found out the same way most of you did: From Twitter. Tonight I'm



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Ex-JPMorgan execs pressed about trading losses

MARCY GORDON
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two former high-ranking executives at JPMorgan Chase faced tough questions from senators Friday about why the bank played down risks and hid losses from regulators when it was losing billions of dollars.

The hearing was held a day after the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations issued a scathing report that ascribed widespread blame for \$6.2 billion in trading losses to key executives at the firm.

Douglas Braunstein, the former chief financial officer, and Ina Drew, the former chief investment officer overseeing trading strategy, were pressed to explain why bank executives gave federal examiners in April information that significantly understated losses for the first quarter of 2012.

"The number I reported (to the regulators) was the number that was given to me," said Drew, who re-

signed last spring after the losses became public.

Drew blamed the losses on executives under her watch who failed to control risks out of the London office. She said that undermined her oversight and kept her from preventing the losses.

The report also suggested that CEO Jamie Dimon was aware of the losses in April, even while he played them down publicly. And Sen. Carl Levin, the chairman of the panel, implied that Dimon set a precedent at the bank for withholding information.

Dimon acknowledged in May 2012 that the firm had lost \$2 billion on risky trades out of its London office. The losses have since been revised to more than \$6 billion.

After reading the report and hearing executives testify that they didn't know who was responsible for informing regulators, members of the panel questioned whether the nation's biggest bank had become too large to man-

age. The "trading culture at JPMorgan ... piled on risk, hid losses, disregarded risk limits, manipulated risk models, dodged oversight and misinformed the public," Levin said Friday at the

hearing. The "trading culture at JPMorgan ... piled on risk, hid losses, disregarded risk limits, manipulated risk models, dodged oversight and misinformed the public," Levin said Friday at the

rectly on the accusation that Dimon knew of the trading loss in April.

Dimon was not a witness at Friday's hearing. In April, news reports said a trader in JPMorgan's Lon-

don office known as "the whale" had taken huge risks that were roiling the markets. Dimon immediately dismissed the reports as a "tempest in a teapot" during a conference call

with analysts. But Dimon acknowledged the losses a month later. And he told a separate Senate committee in June that the bank showed "bad judgment," was "stupid" and "took far too much risk." He also had his compensation last year reduced by 50 percent, as did Braunstein.

After the trading loss came to light, Drew resigned after 30 years with the firm and voluntarily paid back two years of salary.

Drew said Friday that while she doesn't believe she bore personal responsibility for the losses, she decided to step down to make it easier for JPMorgan "to move beyond these issues." Her comments were her first public remarks since leaving the firm.

Braunstein acknowledged that risk models for the trading operation were changed in a way that was improper early last year. The changes made the bank's trading losses appear smaller than they were. □



JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon speaks in Davos, Switzerland. According to congressional testimony Friday, March 15, 2013, Dimon held back showing federal regulators reports in May that revealed the bank had accumulated billions of dollars in trading losses, said Douglas Braunstein, the firm's former chief financial officer. (AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus)

hearing.

On Thursday, JPMorgan acknowledged it made mistakes but rejected any assertions that it concealed losses or risks. A spokesman declined to comment di-

rectly on the accusation that Dimon knew of the trading loss in April. Dimon was not a witness at Friday's hearing. In April, news reports said a trader in JPMorgan's Lon-

don office known as "the whale" had taken huge risks that were roiling the markets. Dimon immediately dismissed the reports as a "tempest in a teapot" during a conference call

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Court says CIA must yield some data on drones

CHARLIE SAVAGE

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WASHINGTON — A federal appeals court held Friday that the CIA must disclose, at least to a judge, a description of its records on drone strikes in response to a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union.

The 19-page opinion by Judge Merrick B. Garland rejected an Obama administration effort to keep

secret any aspect of the CIA's interest in the use of drone strikes to kill terrorism suspects abroad.

It does not necessarily mean the contents of any of those records will ever be made public, and it stopped short of ordering the government to acknowledge publicly that the CIA actually uses drones to carry out "targeted killings" against specific terrorism suspects or groups of unknown people

who appear to be militants in places like tribal Pakistan. The Obama administration continues to treat that fact as a classified secret, though it has been widely reported. But the ruling was a chink in that stonewall. Garland, citing the CIA role in analyzing intelligence as well as public remarks by a former director and other top officials, about what they asserted was the precision and minimal civilian ca-

sualties caused by drone strikes, said it was a step too far to ask the judicial branch to give its "imprimatur to a fiction of deniability that no reasonable person would regard as plausible."

The CIA, in urging a district court judge to dismiss the lawsuit, had argued that it should not be required to produce even an index of the relevant documents in its possession — a normal step in such litigation

— because it would harm national security even to confirm or deny whether it had an "interest" in such operations.

A district court judge, Rosemary Collyer, accepted that argument and rejected the ACLU's case, and the ruling Friday sends the case back to her. It remains to be seen how detailed and public she will require the agency to be now that it must at least describe its records. □

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Police clash with Sunni worshippers in Baghdad

S. N. YACOB
Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Protesters clashed Friday with Iraqi police trying to prevent them from reaching the most venerated Sunni mosque in Baghdad, as members of their sect once again massed for anti-government rallies in several Iraqi cities. Iraqi security forces had prevented worshippers from holding Friday prayers at the Abu Hanifa mosque last week as well, a development that reflects heightened sectarian tensions nearly a decade after the U.S. invasion of Iraq. The security forces worried that Friday prayers at this mosque might turn into a massive anti-government demonstration. Police officials said anti-riot police used batons and water hoses in order to prevent worshippers from crossing a bridge leading to the mosque, which is located in the primarily Sunni neighborhood of Azamiyah. The officials said five worshippers sustained bruises and minor injuries in the skirmishes at the

bridge, about 2 kilometers (1 mile) from Abu Hanifa. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

Abdul-Rahman al-Azzawi was among of a group of people who tried to cross the 14th of Ramadan bridge when they were met by security forces.

"We were showered with water and the policemen started to beat us. I do not know the reason behind this savage attack. We were only going to a mosque, not to al-Maliki's office in the Green Zone," he said, referring to Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's office in the heavily secured quarter in the center of Baghdad nowhere close to the mosque. The clashes did not reach the Abu Hanifa mosque itself. The area around the holy site

was calm and hundreds of people, including Sunni parliament speaker Osama al-Nujaifi, attended the Friday prayers there. During the Friday sermon

access to Abu Hanifa, but once again the government officials failed to live to their promises," al-Taha said. In the western province of Anbar, the heart



Masked Sunni protesters holding a flag that reads, "Mohammed is the Prophet of God," while others chant slogans at an anti-government rally in Fallujah, Iraq, Friday, March 15, 2013. (AP Photo)

in the mosque, Sunni cleric Ahmed Haasan al-Taha criticized the restriction of movement imposed on worshippers. "Several days ago, the authorities promised us that they would provide the people free

of the protest movement that began in December, masked men arrived at the site of demonstrations in Fallujah, raising the flag used by predominantly Sunni rebels in neighboring Syria. □

Egypt's Morsi praises police in face of criticism

AYA BATRAWY
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's president praised the country's policemen on Friday despite public criticism over their violent response to anti-government demonstrations, and he warned officers who are also protesting his rule against breaking ranks. President Mohammed Morsi addressed riot police at one of their camps near Cairo before joining them in weekly Friday prayers in a show of solidarity with the force. The riot police, known as Central Security, have been at the forefront of deadly clashes with protesters the past two years since the 18-day uprising that toppled autocrat Hosni Mubarak in February 2011. Hundreds of protesters have been killed over that period, and rights groups accuse the police of using snipers and lethal force. Policemen also have been killed and have suffered serious injuries.

Over the past weeks, thousands of officers and low-ranking policemen staged protests outside police stations and refused to work. Some accuse the Muslim Brotherhood, from which Morsi hails, of trying to control the force. The Brotherhood denies the claims. Others demand higher wages, better working conditions, greater firepower and stronger immunity from prosecution for carrying out their duties. Many are demanding the resignation of Interior Minister Mohammed Ibrahim, head of the security forces. □

IMF says Europe's banking sector still fragile

PARIS (AP) — Europe's banks are still fragile and the European Union has a way to go to make them stable, the International Monetary Fund said Friday in its first assessment of the continent's financial sector. The report said that, despite the progress made by the EU to repair its financial system, several challenges remain: banks are still struggling to get the loans they need to fund everyday op-

erations, investors are still wary of European countries' debt and growth is stagnant on much of the continent.

The IMF knows first-hand of Europe's problems as a contributor to bailouts that rescued Greece, Portugal and Ireland. While some countries were brought down by overspending and taking on too much debt, banks have also played a pivotal role in Europe's crisis.

The IMF report underlines what many have said before: EU countries need to sever that link between banks and governments. In Ireland, for instance, it was the government's attempt to rescue its troubled banking sector that forced the country into a bailout itself.

Spain also had to take a loan from the 17-strong group of EU countries that use the euro so that it could afford to bolster its

lenders' capital reserves, which had been severely depleted by the country's property crash.

The report examines plans by the EU to create a single supervisor for its banks. European leaders agreed in December that the European Central Bank would have oversight of financial institutions in the countries that use the euro and any others that wanted to join. But the IMF is pushing for the EU go further. □



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Vatican lashes out at "defamatory" campaign against pope

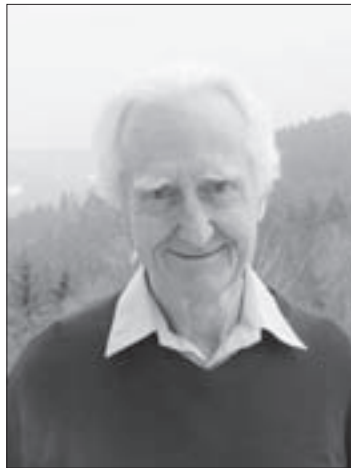
NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The Vatican lashed out Friday at what it called a "defamatory" and "anti-clerical left-wing" campaign to discredit Pope Francis over his actions during Argentina's 1976-1983 military junta, saying no credible accusation had ever stuck against the new pope.

While the former Jorge Mario Bergoglio, like most other Argentines, failed to openly confront the murderous dictatorship, human rights activists differ on how much responsibility he personally deserves. Bergoglio ran the Jesuit order in Argentina during the dictatorship. The Vatican spokesman the Rev. Federico Lombardi noted Friday that a Jesuit who was kidnapped during the dictatorship in a case that involved Bergoglio had issued a statement earlier in the day saying the two had reconciled.

Lombardi also noted that Argentine courts had never accused Bergoglio of

any crime and that, on the contrary, there is ample evidence of the role he played protecting people from the military as it kidnapped and killed thou-



Handout photo shows Francisco Jalics at an unknown location in Germany. The Jesuit priest kidnapped in 1976 by Argentina's military junta when the new pope was the leader of that country's Jesuits says he has reconciled with him.

(AP Photo/Haus Gries)

sands of people in a "dirty war" to eliminate leftist opponents. He said the accusations were made long ago "by anti-clerical left-

wing elements to attack the church and must be decisively rejected." The most damning accusation against Bergoglio is that as the military junta took over in 1976, he withdrew his support for two slum priests whose activist colleagues in the liberation theology movement were disappearing. The priests were then kidnapped and tortured at the Navy Mechanics School, which the junta used as a clandestine prison. Bergoglio said he had told the priests — Orlando Yorio and Francisco Jalics — to give up their slum work for their own safety, and they refused. Yorio later accused Bergoglio of effectively delivering them to the death squads by declining to publicly endorse their work. Yorio is now dead. Jalics, who had maintained silence about the events, on Friday issued a statement saying he had spoken with Bergoglio years later, that the two had celebrated Mass together and hugged "solemnly." "I am reconciled

to the events and consider the matter to be closed," he said. Bergoglio in 2010 revealed his side of the story to his official biographer Sergio Rubin: that he had gone to extraordinary, behind-the-scenes lengths to save the men.

The Jesuit leader persuaded the family priest of feared dictator Jorge Videla to call in sick so that he could say Mass instead. Once inside the junta leader's home, Bergoglio privately appealed for mercy, Rubin wrote.

Lombardi said the airing of the accusations in recent days in the press following Francis' election was "characterized by a campaign that's often slanderous and defamatory."

While harsh, such remarks are not unusual for the Vat-

ican when it feels under attack. Earlier this week, Lombardi issued a similar denunciation of an advocacy group for victims of sexual abuse, accusing it of using the media spotlight on the conclave to try to publicize old accusations against cardinals. The accusations, Lombardi said, are baseless and the cardinals deserve everyone's "esteem."

The accusations against Bergoglio started with the priest Yorio and with lay people working inside church offices. Horacio Verbitzky, an advocacy journalist who was a leftist militant at the time and is now closely aligned with the government, has written extensively about the accusations in Argentina's Pagina12 newspaper. □

Pork found in European products for Muslims

OSLO, Norway (AP) — Europe's embarrassing meat saga took a troubling twist after reports emerged in Norway and Britain that meat labeled 'halal', or fit for consumption by Muslims, was found to contain pork.

Norway's food inspectorate said Friday it has found pork in kebab meat and pizza toppings that were labeled halal, while a British meat company apologized after halal chicken sausages supplied to at least one school were found to contain pork.

Muslims are forbidden to eat pork under Islamic law. Ragnhild Arnesen, spokes-

woman for the Norwegian Food Safety Authority, said the agency was testing food for horse meat and discovered that some products contained large amounts of pork though the labels indicated they were all-beef.

"We found the pork both in kebab meat in grocery stores and meat used in fast-food eating places," Arnesen said.

"We consider this to be serious and have begun criminal proceedings against two producers — Kuraas, the company that sold pork as halal meat — and another producer, Norsk Mesterkjøtt, whose prod-

ucts were labeled 100 percent beef but contained more than 60 percent pork," she said.

Arnesen said Kuraas AS has recalled all the fast-food meat from supermarkets and restaurants.

Kuraas AS issued an apology on its website, saying it was working with the food authority to determine how the pork ended up in the meat products.

Horse meat, which poses no health risk, has been discovered in beef dishes across Europe, evoking concern about mislabeling and disgust in places where it is not traditionally eaten. □



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Japan PM Abe says to join Pacific trade pact talks

ELAINE KURTENBACH

AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced Friday that Japan will join talks on a Pacific trade pact that would oblige the country to open up sheltered industries including farming, long a bastion of protectionism.

The decision to seek participation in the U.S.-led Trans-Pacific Partnership, or TPP, raised protests from farmers, who are a traditional bastion of support for Abe's Liberal Democratic Party.

Many in Japan, however, see the pact as a way to overcome stubborn resistance to reforms essential for reviving the stagnant economy. In a national address, Abe said Japan has no choice but to opt for the growth that comes with freer trade or lose out to other countries that are capitalizing on such market opening.

"Japan has run into a big wall — low birthrate, aging and lingering deflation — and we have turned inward looking," he said.



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe speaks during a news conference on Trans-Pacific Partnership or TPP at his official residence in Tokyo, Friday, March 15, 2013.

(AP Photo/Itsuo Inouye)

"If Japan becomes the only one that turns inward, there is no chance for our growth. No businesses would want to invest in such a country and talent-

ed people would not be interested."

"Joining TPP would be the beginning of a new Japan," Abe said.

He repeatedly pledged to guard Japan's national interest and ensure that the trade pact would benefit farmers as well as other Japanese.

"What we really should fear is doing nothing," Abe said.

"I promise you that we will guard our sovereignty as we pursue our national benefit through these negotiations."

Despite such promises, Japan's tariffs on farm products would likely have to come down: the average

tariff on imported rice is nearly 800 percent, while rates for butter and sugar are over 300 percent.

The decision to join the talks dovetails with his "Abenomics" economic strategy, which is based on easing monetary policy, boosting public spending and longer-term reforms.

"TPP is a core issue for Japan right now. The main thing is that Abenomics, the plan of getting Japan moving and growing again, does not only depend on printing more money or on fiscal spending, but really depends on liberalizing the economy," said Martin Schulz, an economist at Fujitsu Research Institute in Tokyo.

"For that, TPP is a core part because it involves all sectors, from energy, to agriculture, insurances, the car industry as well. That would be a big step for Japan," Schulz said.

Japan's agricultural lobby is small but politically powerful. However, after two decades of stagnation, calls by big business groups such as the Keidanren to join the trade pact or miss out on easier access to key export markets appear to have outweighed objections from farmers. □

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Belfast:

2 schools shut over suspected IRA mortar

SHAWN POGATCHNIK

Associated Press

DUBLIN (AP) — Northern Ireland police discovered a suspected mortar Friday that was aimed at one of Belfast's biggest police bases in an apparent escalation of Irish Republican Army efforts to target British security forces.

Dozens of homes were evacuated, two primary schools were closed and a funeral ceremony had to be relocated as British army explosives experts used two remote-controlled robots to examine the suspicious tube. A second robot had to be deployed as the first, trying to inspect the device partly concealed in uneven grassy ground, was tipped on its side by gusting

winds.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland said it wasn't certain yet whether the tube contained a viable round.

No group claimed responsibility. Police and politicians blamed IRA die-hards who reject the cease-fire observed since 1997 by the dominant faction, the Provisional IRA.

In recent months, today's IRA activists have repeatedly attempted to use Provisional IRA-style mortars to blast police vehicles and bases, but so far all their efforts have failed.

Police usually have seized the homemade weapons before they could be fired, reflecting their close surveillance of the extremists.

On March 3, police in Northern Ireland's second-largest city, Londonderry, caught two men trying to drive a four-tube mortar weapon into the city for likely deployment against its main police station.

Friday's suspected mortar system was put into the ground with its lone tube pointing toward New Barnsley police station, the biggest security installation in west Belfast with bomb-resistant watchtowers and high brick walls. The base, built in the mid-1990s and designed to withstand large car bombs, forms part of a so-called "peace line" of walls that have separated rival Irish Catholic and British Protestant districts in the area since the early 1970s.



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Boeing: Commercial 787 flights to restart in weeks

YURI KAGEYAMA
AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Boeing said Friday it sees commercial flights of its grounded 787 jets resuming "within weeks" even though it has not pinpointed the cause of battery overheating. Boeing Co. Chief Project Engineer Michael Sinnett outlined a fix centered on a new design for the lithium-ion battery system that has layers of safeguards to prevent overheating and measures to contain malfunctions. "We could be back up and going in weeks and not months," Sinnett told reporters at a Tokyo hotel. A third of safety tests have already been completed. A Japanese official said it was possible

flights could resume next month. The 787 fleet was grounded worldwide by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration, its counterparts in Japan and other nations in January, following a battery fire in a Dreamliner parked in Boston and an overheated battery that led to an emergency landing of another 787 in Japan. All Nippon Airways, a major Japanese carrier, was the launch customer for the technologically advanced Dreamliner planes. With Japan Airlines another customer, about half the 787 jets in use are with Japanese carriers.

The Boeing executives sought to allay flier fears about the 787 by repeatedly stressing their com-

mitment to safety. The Dreamliner is the first airliner to make wide use of lithium-ion batteries. They are light and quick to charge

but can suffer from "thermal runaway," a chemical reaction in which a rise in temperature causes a spiral of temperature increas-

es. The executives said it would take too long to figure out what had specifically caused the problems in Boston and southwestern Japan but the new design would ensure 787s are safe. Boeing came up with 80 possible causes for the battery failures, categorized them into four groups, and came up with design changes such as better insulation between each battery cell so any malfunctions won't spread. That was to allow the 787 to be back in the air more promptly, they said. There were also changes to wiring for the battery, aimed at preventing overheating, and a new enclosure for the battery that they said would eliminate fire risk. □



Boeing Commercial Airplanes Vice President and Chief Project Engineer Mike Sinnett poses with a model of newly designed 787's battery for photographers during a news conference in Tokyo, Friday, March 15, 2013.

(AP Photo/Itsuo Inouye)

Dutch lesbians parenting Turkish boy go into hiding

TOBY STERLING
Associated Press


AMSTERDAM (AP) — A Dutch lesbian couple have gone into hiding with their foster son after the boy's biological parents said on television in Turkey that they object to the pair taking care of their child. The matter is threatening to overshadow an official visit by Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan to the Netherlands next week. Lodewijk Asscher, the Dutch vice prime minister, told reporters Friday that the issue is an internal Dutch matter and that political interference from Turkey is "inappropriate." The 9-year-old boy identified by his first name, Yunus, was removed from his biological parents' care — in the Netherlands — while he was still a baby, and eventually placed in the care of the lesbian couple, who

live in The Hague.

His biological mother, Nurgul Azeroglu, appeared on a Turkish television program earlier this month and called on Erdogan to intervene in the case. She acknowledged having accidentally dropped the child from a poorly fastened carrying bag once — apparently part of the reason he was removed from her care.

Dutch newspaper NRC Handelsblad reported that two other children were also to be taken away from the family in 2008, but they then traveled to Turkey to prevent that from happening.

Prominent Turkish politicians have recently spoken out against children of Turkish ancestry being raised by Christians, homosexuals, or others whose values are rejected by their biological parents. □




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North Korea accuses US, Seoul of cyberattacks



North Korean students surf the internet at computer terminals inside a computer lab at Kim Il Sung University in Pyongyang, North Korea. North Korea on Friday, March 15, 2013, blamed South Korea and the United States for cyberattacks that temporarily shut down websites this week.

(AP Photo/David Guttenfelder)

YOUKYUNG LEE
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— North Korea on Friday blamed South Korea and the United States for cyberattacks that temporarily shut down websites this week at a time of elevated tensions over the North's nuclear ambitions. Experts, however, indicated it could take months to determine what happened and one analyst suggested hackers in China were

a more likely culprit.

Internet access in Pyongyang was intermittent on Wednesday and Thursday, and Loxley Pacific Co., the broadband Internet provider for North Korea, said it was investigating an online attack that took down Pyongyang servers. A spokesman for the Bangkok-based company said Friday that it was not clear where the attack originated.

North Korea's official Ko-

rean Central News Agency blamed the shutdown on the United States and South Korea, accusing the allies of expanding an aggressive stance against Pyongyang into cyberspace with "intensive and persistent virus attacks."

South Korea denied the allegation and the U.S. military declined to comment. Loxley Pacific, which has provided broadband Internet service in North Korea through a joint venture with the government since 2010, said the Internet was back to normal Friday. AP journalists in Pyongyang also were able to access the Internet again Friday after two days of disruptions. Most North Koreans do not have access to the Internet, which remains restricted to a select group. The cyberattack accusation comes amid a torrent of North Korean criticism against the U.S. and South Korea for holding routine joint military drills that Pyongyang considers preparations for an invasion. North Korea also is incensed by U.N. sanctions punishing Pyongyang for testing a nuclear device

that it claims to need as a defense against U.S. aggression.

"The U.S. thinks that only it can have nuclear weapons. But we have nuclear weapons for justice, and for the sovereignty of our country," Lt. Ri Yong Kwon of the North's Korean People's Army said Friday at the heavily militarized border dividing the Korean Peninsula.

Increasingly, many nations see cyberspace as a new front for warfare. China and the U.S. have accused one another of state-backed cyberspying.

Accusations of cyberattacks on the Korean Peninsula are not new, but it is usually South Korea accusing the North of unleashing hackers on its computer networks. Seoul believes Pyongyang was behind at least two cyberattacks on local companies in 2011 and 2012. South Korean security experts questioned North Korea's quick blame of Washington and Seoul because it can take months to trace the source of a cyberattack and hackers can easily disguise their locations. □

Brazil's new oil royalty revenue law takes effect

SAO PAULO (AP) — A new oil law that gives a greater share of royalty revenues from Brazil's vast oil fields to non-producing states went into effect on Friday and producing states say they will file appeals with the Supreme Court.

The law was published in the official gazette after President Dilma Rousseff signed it on Thursday.

The new law shares oil royalties, from existing and future drilling and production concessions, more evenly among all of Brazil's 27 states instead of favoring top oil producers such as Rio de Janeiro, Espirito Santo and Sao Paulo states.

Officials in Rio de Janeiro, the largest producing state, have said the law will deprive Rio of \$1.7 billion in 2013 alone, endangering preparations for the 2014 World Cup and the 2016 Olympics.

Rio state Gov. Sergio Cabral the law would bankrupt the state and many of its municipal governments, 87 percent of which depend on oil-generated revenues.

He said the legislation is unconstitutional because it breaches existing production contracts.

The Espirito Santo governor, Renato Casagrande, has said his state stands to lose more than 10 billion reals (\$5 billion) over the next seven years.

Congress approved the law late last year but Rousseff vetoed the part that decreased the percentage of petroleum royalties going to producing states from 26.25 to 20 percent. Non-producing states are to see their share increase from 7 to 21 percent.

The central government sees its share of royalties drop from 30 percent to 20 percent. The rest of money goes to municipal governments in producing states. Congress overrode the presidential veto last week. □

Argentine gays not thrilled with new pope

A. CALATRAVA
Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina

(AP) — While the appointment of Jorge Mario Bergoglio as pope has filled many in this deeply Catholic country with pride, members of the gay pride community are unsurprisingly less than enthusiastic with the Vatican's choice. Nearly three years before Argentina became known as home to the first Latin American pope, it made history as the first country in the region to approve gay marriage — an action that then-Cardinal Bergoglio

actively opposed.

The gay community here remembers Bergoglio, now Pope Francis, as the man who launched "a war of God" against the move to approve gay marriage.

"He was the visible face of the Catholic Church's opposition to equal marriage and he approached it from a fundamentalist position,

posturing that he had to wage a war of God against what he considered a plan of the devil," said Esteban Paulon, president of the Argentine Federation of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and



A demonstrator looks on between banners that read in Spanish: "Satan take off your cassock," during a rally to support a proposal to legalize same-sex marriage in Buenos Aires, Argentina. (AP Photo/Natasha Pisarenko)

Transsexuals.

But that isn't the whole story.

Before the Argentine Congress approved gay marriage in July 2010, some provinces in the country and individual judges had already begun allowing it. With that reality and the pro-gay marriage stance of President Cristina Fer-

nandez, the church had to decide what to do.

According to the new pope's authorized biographer, Sergio Rubin, Bergoglio was politically wise enough to know the church couldn't win a straight-on fight against gay marriage, so he urged his bishops to lobby for gay civil unions instead. □

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Governor of Aruba leads official opening of ARUBA DOET



ORANJESTAD - Friday, March 15th marked the first edition of ARUBA DOET. The official opening was lead by His Excellency the Governor of Aruba at Huize Maristella. The Governor expressed his enthusiasm with the ARUBA DOET initiative and the large Aruban community participation. Together with Daniel Tecklenborg, Director of CEDE Aruba, they planted an ornamental plant as a starting point of the ARUBA DOET 2013 in the garden of Huize Maristella.

ARUBA DOET's first year consists of 87 small jobs and with them almost more than 1,700 volunteers involved - which makes ARUBA DOET the largest volunteer event on Aruba. The event is stretched over two days; Friday, March 15th and Saturday, March 16th. ARUBA DOET gives foundations, care institutions, schools and sport associations the chance to complete small jobs that never got finished due to lack of staff. Examples are; painting the resident bedrooms at St Michael Pavilion, building a green house at Trampolin pa Trabao or carrying out a road trip for residents of cas Sjabaruri. Mr. Tecklenborg identifies



ARUBA DOET as "a brilliant initiative that will spark the interest of volunteers and give citizens in our community the chance to experience teamwork for a collective cause."

The success of ARUBA DOET is made possible by the commitment and assistance of a large amount of participants; individual volunteers and families, companies, schools and foundations/institutions. ARUBA DOET has also become successful thanks to the commitment and organizational skills of all coordinators. Institutions benefit greatly from the manpower and also the donations that most of them have received.

During the first jobs it was

evident; the mutual enthusiasm was great and contagious.

The volunteers were well received and provided for, the job was clear to the volunteers and the impression of the organization and its volunteers, very positive. And at the end of the day, the job was done!

ARUBA DOET is organized by CEDE ARUBA in partnership with Oranje Fonds. CEDE Aruba is a foundation dedicated to the development of the social sector with knowledge and funding. The Oranje Fonds supports social initiatives within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The Prince of Orange and Princess Máxima are the protectors of the foundation. □





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EAGLE BEACH - Recently Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring two very loyal and friendly families as Goodwill Ambassadors and Distinguished Visitors. The honored are: Allan and Patricia Gourley of Hampstead, New Hampshire as

Distinguished Visitors, and Shirley and Paul Bertolino of Holbrook, Massachusetts as Goodwill Ambassadors. The honorees are members of Paradise Beach Villas and have been enjoying the Island every year. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of



the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-20 years consecutive. The main reasons why

they keep coming back to Aruba are the friendly people, the beaches, the beautiful weather, and the local food. The certificate was pre-

sented by Darline S. de Cuba representing Aruba Tourism Authority and Milca Erasmus, Human Resources Mgr. at Paradise Beach Villas. □

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Super response from sponsors for the Ninth Annual Wente Vineyards/Papiamento Restaurant Charity Golf Tournament



WEST PUNT—The ninth edition of the Wente Vineyards/Papiamento Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, March 23. Aruba's golfers are already greatly looking forward to this annual event, which combines great wines and food with the intriguingly difficult game of golf. This year's chosen charity is Koningin Wilhelmina Fonds (KWF), the foundation which sup-

ports patients with cancer. The tournament will raise money for the transportation of patients to and from the hospital, oncologists and physiotherapists. Sponsoring money as well as the registration fee for the tournament will be going straight to the charity that has been elected. Because the golf event has very good standing in the local community, sponsors

have reacted favorably to the request of organizer Arion Wine Company to support this unique and popular happening. Sponsors are invited to the welcome cocktail party; their company logo or flag is displayed at 'their' own hole or tee. Of course sponsors are also more than welcome to attend the awards presentation. Held on Tierra del Sol's out-

side patio and featuring a soup buffet, this is always great fun as well. Valued sponsors of this year's Wente Vineyards/Papiamento Restaurant Golf Tournament are American Airlines, Aruba Airport Authority, Aruba Bank, Riedel The Wine Glass Company, Crystal Casino, Fatum, Nagico Aruba NV, Plus Accountants, Robertson Fire Protection, Setar, Garage

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CASINO AND SHOPS

At the Radisson Aruba Resort & Casino: Mercedes Rosario, Harkin Henry are Colleagues of the Year!

PALM BEACH - Mercedes Rosario, a breakfast cook at the resort's Plaza Lounge and Harkin Henry, a painter in the Engineering department, won top honors at the resort, during an award gala, hosted just recently in the Grand Caribbean Ballroom. Both Mercedes and

Harkin distinguished themselves as Colleagues of the Month for January and October of 2012, respectively, but when it came to the Colleague of the Year vote, the two excellent nominees tied, and were both honored, sharing the ultimate title of Colleague

of the Year, for 2012. Also nominated for the Colleague of the Year title, all previous Colleague of the Month winners, among them for February Margarita Vries, from Accounting, for March, Rosemarie Saint Felix, from Housekeeping, for April, Brigitte Hernandez, from Banquets, for May, Nolfort Valencia, from Engineering, for June Omar Castañeda, from Housekeeping, for July, Marilu Erasmus, from Sunset Grille Restaurant, for August, Karminah Samingoen, from Human Resources, for September, Youn Martinez, from Pool & Beach, for November, Roque Martinez, Engineering, and for December, Emmely Polsbroek, from Activities. As Supervisor of the Year,



Benito Croes, Head Butcher in the Food & Beverage department outshone all others and was rewarded with a certificate of recognition, gifts and public praise. Other distinguished supervisors, among them Esperanza Castillo, Kitchen, was also nominated for the first quarter, Helena Dake, Accounting for the second quarter and Orving Croes, Banquets, for the third quarter. As Manager of the Year, Raphael Everon, Shift Manager in the Casino, outperformed all other hard working and determined managers who were also nominated

alongside, with Sheldon Leuden, Food & Beverage, Frank Erasmus, Rooms, and Lisandra Dammerman, sales, among them. Special recognition was given to Margarita Vries who has been nominated to Colleague of the Month, a record number of times. The elegant gala evening, with dance music and gourmet food, was presented by General Manager Mark L. Frances and his executive team, as a token of appreciation for his motivated and talented team, for the efforts made by them in the previous year. □



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Mikaela Shiffrin, of the United States, celebrates on podium after taking third place in an alpine ski, women's World Cup slalom, in Osterschwang, Germany, Sunday, March 10, 2013.

Associated Press

Shiffrin set for title showdown with Maze

GRAHAM DUNBAR

AP Sports Writer

LENZERHEIDE, Switzerland (AP) — Mikaela Shiffrin's showdown with Tina Maze for the World Cup slalom title on Saturday is yet another highlight in the American teenager's remarkable season.

Shiffrin won slalom gold at the world championships last month, while her Slovenian rival's all-round season is arguably the greatest in 47 years of World Cup racing.

Maze marginally leads the slalom standings, but Shiffrin will take home the crystal trophy if she gets a fourth World Cup race win. Shiffrin set the compelling stage with a Twitter message revealing her relish for the contest.

"Tina Maze, I challenge you to a slalom battle of the ages. Lets dance :)" Shiffrin wrote on Monday, two days before her 18th birthday.

Continued on page 20



DAY of the SHAWN

Stefani retain halfway lead at Tampa Bay Championship

Shawn Stefani tees off on the sixth hole during the second round of the Tampa Bay Championship golf tournament Friday, March 15, 2013, in Palm Harbor, Fla.

Associated Press

Page 21

Dominicans beat United States 3-1 in WBC

STEVEN WINE,
AP Sports Writer

MIAMI (AP) — Pinch-hitter Erick Aybar singled home the go-ahead run in the ninth to lead the Dominican Republic past the United States 3-1 on Thursday, earning a berth in the final round of the World Baseball Classic.

The Dominicans, who improved to 5-0, are assured of a spot in the semifinals beginning Sunday in San Francisco, where two-time defending champion Japan and the Netherlands have already advanced. Playing against the U.S. for the first time in the WBC, the Dominicans drew raucous support from the crowd all night, especially in a noisy ninth.

With the score level at 1-all, Nelson Cruz led off with a double against Craig Kimbrel (0-1), then took third on a groundout.

Aybar singled sharply and ran to first with his index



Dominican Republic's Erick Aybar slides safely into home on an RBI single by Jose Reyes against the United States during the ninth inning of their second-round game in the World Baseball Classic in Miami, Thursday, March 14, 2013. The Dominican Republic won 3-1.
Associated Press

finger raised as his teammates poured out of the dugout to greet Cruz crossing the plate.

Until Aybar's hit, the Dominicans were 0 for 7 with runners in scoring position.

Aybar then stole second and scored on a two-out single by Jose Reyes.

Former Miami Marlin Hanley Ramirez silenced the jeers from the crowd with a home run in the second inning for the other Dominican run.

Pedro Strop (3-0) pitched a scoreless eighth for the Dominicans.

Fernando Rodney, the fifth

Dominican pitcher, followed with a perfect ninth to complete a six-hitter for his fourth save.

He has yet to allow a hit in 4 1-3 innings.

The retractable roof was closed, which reinforced the sound of the noisemakers favored by Dominican spectators.

Their racket more than matched the cheers of U.S. fans in the crowd of 34,366. Both starting pitchers benefited from umpire Angel Hernandez's large strike zone, and they cooled off two teams that came into the game batting over .300.

R.A. Dickey, the National League Cy Young Award winner last year, gave up one run and struck out four in five innings.

Minnesota Twins right-hander Samuel Deduno allowed one run and struck out seven, mostly on curves, in four innings for the Dominican Republic.

Deduno walked Eric Hosmer with the bases loaded to score the lone U.S. run in the opening inning. Deduno then went to 3-0 on Adam Jones but struck him out on a 3-2 breaking pitch to escape the jam.

Deduno also struck out Hosmer to end the third, then walked to the dugout shouting with both arms raised.

He was just as demonstrative after fanning Jimmy Rollins to end the fourth.

The U.S. team was without slugger David Wright, who was scratched shortly before the game because of sore ribs. □



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CASINO AND SHOPS

Penguins rally to win seventh straight game

The Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Pascal Dupuis scored two of Pittsburgh's three goals in the third period as the Penguins stormed back to beat the Toronto Maple Leafs 3-1 on Thursday, winning their seventh NHL game in a row. Marc-Andre Fleury made 28 saves for Pittsburgh, which defeated the Maple Leafs in a shootout in Toronto five days earlier. Craig Adams sealed this win by scoring into an empty net with 10 seconds left. Tyler Bozak had the lone goal for Toronto, which has dropped four in a row. Ben Scrivens made 25 saves. Tied 1-1 in the third, Chris Kunitz fed Dupuis in the slot for a shot that beat Scrivens and found the top corner with 2:10 left in regulation.

BRUINS 4, PANTHERS 1

BOSTON (AP) — Tuukka Rask made 29 saves and Patrice Bergeron scored two goals to help Boston beat Florida.

Boston won for the 10th time in 13 games. The Bruins haven't lost consecutive games in regulation since March 2012.

Florida has lost five straight and eight of nine.

Boston scored twice in the first period to take a 2-0 lead. Zdeno Chara scored at 3:55, and Bergeron connected for his seventh goal at 14:56.

Shawn Thornton scored at 12:43 of the third period, and Bergeron added an empty-net goal with 58 seconds remaining. Rask improved to 14-2-3 on the season and 6-1 in his career against Florida with a 0.99 goals-against average.

BLACKHAWKS 2, BLUE JACKETS 1, SO

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Patrick Kane set up Johnny Oduya's goal late in the second period and then netted the decisive score

Pittsburgh Penguins' Pascal Dupuis reaches over Toronto Maple Leafs' John-Michael Liles as he stretches for the puck during the third period of their NHL hockey game, Thursday, March 14, 2013, in Toronto.

Associated Press

in the shootout, leading Chicago over Columbus. Corey Crawford stopped 29 shots to help the Blackhawks end a two-game losing streak after they set an NHL record by getting at least a point in each of their first 24 games.

Jack Johnson scored the tying goal for Columbus 52 seconds after Oduya put Chicago ahead. Sergei Bobrovsky finished with 39 saves for the Blue Jackets, who set a franchise record by earning a point in their ninth game in a row (5-0-4). Columbus has reached overtime in eight of the nine games. □



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NBA Capsules

Spurs edge Mavericks to sweep season series

The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Tim Duncan had 28 points and 19 rebounds to lead the San Antonio Spurs past the Dallas Mavericks 92-91 on Thursday, giving them a season series sweep over their Texas rivals for the first time in 15 years.

Gary Neal added 16 points and Kawhi Leonard had 12 for San Antonio, which has the Western Conference's top record at 50-16.

Dirk Nowitzki had 21 points and 11 rebounds for Dallas, which had a four-game winning streak broken.

San Antonio last swept Dallas during the regular

season in 1998, Duncan's rookie season.

The Mavericks pulled within 92-91 on a 7-0 run capped by Nowitzki's fall-away jumper with 28.2 seconds left.

After the Spurs' Manu Ginobili missed a jumper, Vince Carter missed a long, fall-away 3-pointer at the buzzer that would have won the game.

TRAIL BLAZERS 105, KNICKS 90

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP) — Damian Lillard had 26 points and 10 assists and LaMarcus Aldridge chipped in 22 points and 10 rebounds as Portland handed New York its third

straight defeat.

Nicolas Batum added 18 points for the Trail Blazers.

J.R. Smith had 33 points and Kenyon Martin added 12 to lead New York, which shot just 33 percent in the second half.

The Knicks still lead the Atlantic Division but have struggled on their recent West Coast road trip with a rash of injuries that has decimated their starting five.

Tyson Chandler suffered a bruised knee in a collision Wednesday at Denver and was unavailable, joining Carmelo Anthony and Amare Stoudemire on the sidelines. □



San Antonio Spurs forward Kawhi Leonard (2) is fouled on a shot attempt by Dallas Mavericks guard O.J. Mayo during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Thursday, March 14, 2013, in San Antonio.

Associated Press

Shiffrin

Continued from page 17

When Shiffrin was last in the U.S. almost four months ago, the average sports fan was likely unaware she had long been tipped as skiing's next great talent. Her career took off on Dec. 20 with her first World Cup win at Are, Sweden.

Now, as a world champion with star status in Alpine skiing's European heartland, the soon-to-be high school graduate will start the 2014 Olympics season as an expected medal contender. Shiffrin acknowledges setting a "lofty" goal last year to become World Cup slalom champion — an accolade impossible to fluke across 11 points-scoring events.

"Now I'm in this position where I really have a chance. I've been managed so well this season to be at this point," she told The Associated Press on Friday. Shiffrin even praises Maze — whose 10 World Cup wins include each speed and technical discipline — for helping raise her performance level

"Her season has been really inspiring to me so I have her to thank for a lot for the energy I have gotten," Shiffrin said. "Seeing her win so much makes me want to win more."

That challenge laid down on Twitter revealed a respect that Shiffrin believes is shared. "She's always been very supportive and a great competitor and so that tweet was like, 'Come on, bring it on' because she's going to, that's the way she is," Shiffrin said. "I'm almost honored to be in the position where if I lose the slalom globe it goes to her." Separated by just seven points, whoever wins their personal duel will take the title unless both finish outside the top five places. The potential for a dramatic finale almost demands it be decided around high noon Swiss time (1100 GMT) when the first-run leaders come down a second time.

"I mostly just want to feel in the finish like I skied the fastest I can," Shiffrin said. "That's just such an amazing feeling and I get it a lot in training but I haven't gotten it in a race yet this season." □

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UNIQUE SPORTS
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Adam Scott in the mix at Innisbrook

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

PALM HARBOR, Florida (AP) — Adam Scott had a breakthrough with his short game this winter, and it's so good now that he hardly even has to use it.

Scott had a putt for birdie on 16 holes in a second round at the Tampa Bay Championship that was without a bogey and without much stress. The Australian wound up with a 5-under 66 that left him one shot behind 31-year-old rookie Shawn Stefani.

Stefani had to scramble more that he would have preferred, though he converted all the putts he was supposed to make in his round of 70.

The temperatures finally began to warm, and without much wind throughout the day, the tournament was wide open going into the weekend. Stefani was at 7-under 135, one shot ahead of Scott and past champion K.J. Choi, who had a 67.

Twenty players were within five shots of the lead at the halfway point, a group that included everyone from Sergio Garcia and Matt Kuchar, to 19-year-old Jordan Spieth and Erik Compton, the two-time heart transplant recipient whose 65 was the low round of the day.

It was the highest score to lead at Innisbrook in five years.

Scott was right in the middle of it all, which is where he wants to be.

The Australian hasn't shown too many scars from making bogeys on the last four holes to lose the British Open last summer. He finished the year by winning the Australian Masters, though it was a month later when he was practicing at

home on the Gold Coast that he experienced a significant turnaround with his short game.

"Just had a really nice feeling going that day, whatever it was, and I managed to get through the whole shag bag of balls hitting

at a major next month. The Tampa Bay Championship is only his fourth event this year (and fourth in the last five weeks), and then he plans to shut it down until going to Augusta National. Choi has switched to a claw grip for putting, and

point, Stefani's confidence is growing. He finally made his first bogey of the tournament on the seventh hole, and then rebounded with a 5-iron to 10 feet for birdie on the par-3 eighth. He hit another high cut with a 5-iron on the 220-yard

in the world and needing to stay there by the end of the month to get into the Masters. Ogilvy was a runner-up at the Honda Classic to get back into the mix, though he was on the ropes Friday morning with a 39 on the back nine. He birdied three of his last four holes for a 72 and wound up only six shots behind Stefani.

Scott made a detour this week to Augusta for a practice round with Ernie Els, who won the British Open when Scott collapsed.

"I thought it was in the best shape I've ever seen it in this early in the year," Scott said. "It's Augusta. It's pretty much perfect."

As for playing with the Big Easy? Scott says it was not the least bit awkward at Royal Lytham & St. Annes, nor is it today.

"I think he's an incredible talent and he's one of the best players I've of seen on a golf course," Scott said. "I've played so much golf with him and seen him do such incredible things. I think he could have won 10 majors. So he paid his dues, and whether he won it or I helped him win it a little bit, it doesn't matter. He won it. Probably eased the pain a little bit that he was a closer friend of minute here, and I could feel some happiness for him."

What made him the most thrilled Friday was going around Innisbrook without a bogey, putting him in a good position for the weekend.

"To go bogey-free anywhere is good, and I think here is particularly good," Scott said. "It's quite a tricky golf course, and mistakes are easily made. Very pleased with that. I got myself right in contention for the weekend, which I'm pleased about." □



Adam Scott, of Australia, blasts from the sand trap on the fifth hole during the second round of the Tampa Bay Championship golf tournament Friday, March 15, 2013, in Palm Harbor, Fla.
Associated Press

every chip the same," he said. "Everything was very controlled and consistent. ... I've felt my confidence grow on the course with the pitching and chipping." Scott said when he was hitting the ball poorly in 2009, it put extraordinary pressure on his short game because he was missing greens. In this case, he said a solid short game has relieved any tension in the long game, and it's starting to show.

He closed with a 68-64 on the weekend at Doral, and carried that to the tougher Copperhead course at Innisbrook.

Scott has a limited schedule before his next crack

he likes the results. He took only 12 putts on the back nine Friday, including birdies on two of the par 3s.

"Sometimes very nervous, but I keep going more in line," Choi said. "But still, 6-under-par, a very good position. My confidence is very well."

John Daly registered his 15th score of 10 or higher on a hole in his PGA Tour career when he twice tried to get out of the trees, took two penalty drops and made what he called a "beautiful chip" to get up-and-down from 30 yards on the par-4 third hole. He made a 10 and had an 81. Even though the tournament is at the halfway

15th hole for a short birdie. "Today was a little bit more of a struggle," Stefani said. "Didn't really drive it super great. Didn't hit some of the best iron shots. But I scrambled well and I putt-ed really great. When you putt good, that usually keeps rounds going, and that's pretty much what happened today."

Harris English made four birdies on the tough par 3s to atone for not making up any ground on the par 5s. That gave him a 69, leaving him two shots behind with close friend Brian Harman (70) and Jason Dufner (66). Scott played in the same group with fellow Australian Geoff Ogilvy, who is No. 49

US probes pancreas risks with diabetes drugs

MATTHEW PERRONE
AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is looking into new evidence that suggests a group of recently approved diabetes drugs can increase the risk of pancreatitis and other problems. The agency said Thursday samples of pancreas tissue taken from a small number of patients showed inflammation and cellular changes that often precede cancer. Academic researchers took the samples from diabetes patients who were taking the new medications, after they died from various causes.

Details of the research have not yet been published, but the agency said in an online statement it is seeking more information. While the FDA has issued previous alerts about the pancreatitis risk, the agency had not notified the public about pre-cancerous cell changes seen with the drugs.

For now, regulators say they are still investigating the issue.

"FDA has not concluded these drugs may cause or contribute to the development of pancreatic cancer," the agency said in an online statement. "At this time, patients should continue to take their medicine as directed until they talk

to their health care professional."

The drugs under review come from a wave of recently approved diabetes medications, including Merck's Januvia and Janumet, Danish-based Novo Nordisk's Victoza and Bristol-Myers Squibb's Byetta and Bydureon, among others. All the drugs mimic natural hormones that the

"We believe that the likely worst case for the market incumbents is that the FDA could add additional warnings about increased risk of pancreas-related adverse events" Baum stated in a research note.

People with type 2 diabetes are unable to properly break down carbohydrates, either because their bodies do not produce

ent mechanisms of action to control their blood sugar levels.

With more than 25 million people living with diabetes in the U.S., some of the world's biggest drugmakers have launched new treatments in recent years, though safety questions have emerged.

The FDA previously added information about cases of pancreatitis, some of them fatal, to the labels of Byetta in 2007, and Januvia and Janumet in 2009.

A recent study of insurance records found that use of those drugs could double the risk of developing acute pancreatitis, according to the FDA.

Januvia is a once-a-day pill. Janumet combines the drug with metformin, a decades-old drug commonly prescribed for diabetes. Byetta is a twice-a-day injection originally developed by Amylin Pharmaceuticals. Bristol-Myers acquired the drug last year, along with the newer formulation Bydureon, which is taken once-a-week.

Byetta and Bydureon are part of a drug class that mimics the GLP-1 hormone, triggering insulin production after a meal.

Januvia and Janumet work by blocking the DPP-4 enzyme, which spurs release of more insulin from the pancreas. □



The FDA previously added information about cases of pancreatitis, some of them fatal, to the labels of Januvia and Janumet in 2009.

(Handout Photo)

body usually produces to spur insulin production after a meal.

Citi Investment Research analyst Andrew Baum told investors the investigation would likely have "minimal impact" on drug sales. Similar investigations in recent years have not resulted in safety restrictions, he says.

enough insulin or because they've become resistant to the hormone, which controls blood sugar levels. These patients are at higher risk for heart attacks, kidney problems, blindness and other serious complications.

Many diabetics require multiple drugs with differ-

Grieving spouse pushes unproven remedies bill

MARIA CHENG
AP Medical Writer

LONDON (AP) — After the best-selling Irish novelist Josephine Hart died from ovarian cancer in 2011, her husband was so devastated he often went to her grave to have breakfast. And even now, Lord Maurice Saatchi describes his wife's cancer treatment as "medieval." A member of Parliament, he's proposing a bill that would allow doctors to use experimental therapies even if there is no proof they work.

Hart and Saatchi were an off-photographed celebrity couple in Britain more than a decade ago. She produced plays in Lon-

don's West End and hosted poetry readings featuring actors including Ralph Fiennes and Roger Moore. Her 1991 novel "Damage" was turned into a film starring Jeremy Irons and Juliette Binoche.

Saatchi, an advertising executive who sits in the House of Lords, acknowledges his bill was driven by grief at his wife's death.

After a diagnosis in 2009 that her cancer was too advanced for surgery, Hart got chemotherapy and radiation, which Saatchi calls "degrading and ineffective."

Though ovarian cancer is one of the hardest to catch

and treat early, Saatchi says Britain's current law is a serious barrier to new treatments.

Theoretically doctors can be prosecuted if they try something that deviates from standard practice.

His bill is aimed at encouraging new therapies by allowing doctors to try them, including those lacking evidence of effectiveness. The decision would have to be made by several medical experts in different fields and doctors would need to tell their supervisors in advance as well as inform the patient of any opposing medical opinions.

While bills initiated by individual politicians rarely

make it into law, Saatchi's proposal has raised a broader issue about British health care: Survival rates for most cancers are worse than in other European countries including France, Germany and the United States.

A report released this month said Britain ranked 16th out of 19 Western countries for ovarian cancer death rates.

Access to drugs is so poor the government started a 200 million pound (US\$302 million) emergency fund in 2010 to try to get patients quicker treatment; the U.K. spends about half what France spends on cancer drugs. □

UK study: Violence more likely among vets, troops

MARIA CHENG
AP Medical Writer

LONDON (AP) — Young men who have served in the British military are about three times more likely than civilians to have committed a violent offense, researchers reported Friday in a study that explores the roots of such behavior.

The research found that merely being sent to Iraq or Afghanistan made no difference in rates of violent crime later on. Instead, a key predictor was violent behavior before enlisting. Combat duty also raised the risk, as did witnessing traumatic events during deployment or misusing alcohol afterward.

Still, the vast majority — 94 percent — of British military staff who return home after serving in a combat zone don't commit any crimes, researchers told reporters at a briefing.

The study found little difference in the lifetime rates of violent offenses between military personnel and civilian populations at age 46 — 11 percent versus almost 9 percent. Among younger men, however, being in the military seemed to make a difference: Nearly 21 percent of the military group under age 30 had a conviction for a violent offense in their lifetime compared to fewer than 7 percent of similarly aged men in the general population, according to British crime statistics.

"The problem is that some of the qualities you want in a soldier are the same ones that get people arrested for violent behavior," said Walter Busuttill, director of medical services for Combat Stress, a British veterans' charity that was not part of the study.

Busuttill said many of those recruited into the army are from disadvantaged backgrounds where violence is more common. The research was published online Friday in the medical journal Lancet. □

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Doctors' group told hysterectomy not best option

LAURAN NEERGAARD

AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pricy robotic surgery should not be the first or even second choice for most women who need a hysterectomy, says advice issued Thursday to doctors who help those women decide. The preferred method: Operate through the vagina, using standard tools rather than a robot, said Dr. James Breeden, president of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

Increasingly, women are seeing ads that say a robot could help their doctor perform a hysterectomy more easily. And Breeden said doctors are reporting patients who demand that approach or say they'll take their business elsewhere.

But for routine hysterectomies, the vaginal method lets women leave the hospital just as quickly, without spending nearly as much money, Breeden said Thursday in a statement setting out the position of the nation's largest group of OB/GYNs.

When that is not possible, a laparoscopic hysterectomy — so-called keyhole surgery, operating through a few small incisions in the abdomen — is the second least invasive and costly option, he said.

"It is important to separate the marketing hype from the reality when considering the best surgical approach," Breeden said, adding: "There is no good data proving that robotic hysterectomy is even as good as, let alone better than, existing and far less costly minimally invasive alternatives."

The robotic method is similar to that keyhole op-

eration except the doctor uses a computer to control robotic arms that hold the surgical tools, theoretically easier to move in tight quarters. Breeden said there may be advantages to robotic techniques for "unusual and complex clinical conditions," such as cancer operations that require extensive surgery to find and remove lymph nodes — but that needs additional research.

About 600,000 U.S. women a year undergo a hysterectomy. Traditionally, doctors removed the uterus through a large abdominal incision that meant a long recovery. Today, minimally invasive surgery is encouraged although many

women still get the older open surgery for a variety of reasons.

Thursday's statement is sure to prove controversial with doctors who have embraced the technology. But it comes after a major study last month found robotic surgery adds at least \$2,000 to the cost of a hysterectomy without improving outcomes. Breeden said another study found surgeons perform 50 to 90 robotic hysterectomies before becoming as good at it as they are with other minimally invasive methods.

Manufacturer Intuitive Surgical Inc. said its da Vinci robot system allows some women who otherwise



This Friday, June 13, 2008 file photo shows the da Vinci Surgical Robot at a hospital in Pittsburgh. Pricy robotic surgery shouldn't be the first or even second choice for most women who need a hysterectomy, says advice issued Thursday, March 14, 2013 to doctors who help those women decide.

Associated Press

would need an old-fashioned open hysterectomy — because of obesity,

scarring or other complexities — to instead have a smaller operation. □

NSA holds contest to find young hackers

KEVIN BEGOS

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Bored with classes? One of the U.S. government's top spy agencies and Carnegie Mellon University want to interest students in a game of computer hacking.

Their goal with "Toaster Wars" is to cultivate the nation's next generation of cyber warriors in offensive and defensive strategies. The free, online "high school hacking competition" will run from April 26 to May 6. The game is sponsored by the National Security Agency, which is responsible for code breaking and protecting the U.S. from cyberattack. NSA representative Vanee Vines said Friday that the U.S. increasingly needs professionals with highly technical cyber skills to help keep the country safe.

Last month, then-Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said cyber attacks are "the



In this Nov. 7, 2012 photo, U.S. and Chinese national flags are hung outside a hotel during the U.S. Presidential election event, organized by the U.S. embassy in Beijing.

Associated Press

battlefield of the future," and security experts said massive amounts of data

and corporate trade secrets, likely worth hundreds of millions of dollars, were

being stolen from government and corporate computers. □

US stocks close lower, ending Dow's 10-day rally

DANIEL WAGNER
AP Business Writer

U.S. stocks fell Friday, ending the longest winning streak for the Dow Jones industrial average in nearly 17 years.

The Dow Jones industrial average dropped 25.03 points, or 0.2 percent, to 14,514.11. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 2.53, or 0.2 percent, to 1,560.70. The Nasdaq composite index dropped 9.86, or 0.3 percent, to 3,249.07.

The S&P 500 closed just five points below its all-time closing high of 1,565, reached in October 2007. On Thursday, the Dow closed out a 10-day winning streak, its longest since November 1996.

The string of wins pushed the Dow up 484.65 points, or 3.4 percent, to a Thursday close of 14,539.14. The index's closing price on Feb. 28, just before the rally began, was 14,054.49.

Trading Friday was tentative because investors fear that rising inflation will cause the Federal Reserve to retreat from policies aimed at boosting markets.

The government said that consumer prices increased in February at the fastest pace in more than three years.

The increase was driven by a spike in gas prices; the core index, which excludes the volatile energy and food categories, increased more modestly. But both figures rose 2 percent compared with a year earlier, enough to get investors' attention, said Peter Tchir, who runs the hedge fund TF Market Advisors.

"It's real and it's a drag, and I think people are growing concerned that it can get out of control quickly," Tchir said. He said signs of economic improvement and inflation "make them wonder if there will be continued market pressure on the Fed" to end its bond-buying programs.

The market's recent rally to multiyear highs was fueled in part by the Fed's efforts to keep interest rates low and encourage investment.

The Dow's long rally matched a 10-day winning streak that ended on

Nov. 15, 1996. To find a longer uninterrupted series of gains, you would have to go back to Jan. 3, 1992, when the Dow rose for 11 consecutive days.

The index's longest winning streak was 14 days, ending June 14, 1897.

Stocks opened lower and extended their losses at 10 a.m. after a closely-watched index of consumer sentiment fell to its lowest level since the end of 2011.

The University of Michigan's preliminary consumer sentiment index dropped 5.8 points to 71.8, according to JPMorgan analyst Daniel Silver said in a note to clients.

Stocks reversed the losses briefly at midday, then drifted back down in the afternoon.

Traders are processing big banks' scores on "stress tests" administered by the Fed. The Fed said late Thurs-

day that JPMorgan Chase and Goldman Sachs both need better plans to cope with a severe recession. It gave them until September to revise their plans.

Still, the Fed allowed both banks to increase their dividends and buy back their stock, signaling that regulators believe the banks are fundamentally sound.

The stock of JPMorgan fell 98 cents, or 1.9 percent, to \$50.02. Goldman's stock rose 82 cents, or 0.5 percent, to \$154.84.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 1.99 percent from 2.06 percent early Thursday, as demand increased for ultra-safe investments.

Among the other companies making big moves:

— Cruise ship operator Carnival Corp. fell 78 cents, or 2.2 percent, to \$34.95. The company said passengers have been booking vacations at a slower pace after a series of high-profile mishaps.

— Krispy Kreme Doughnuts Inc. plunged after saying its fiscal fourth-quarter net income dropped sharply and fell short of expectations. The stock fell 41 cents, or 2.7 percent, to \$14.54.

— Teen apparel chain Aeropostale Inc. fell 76 cents, or 5.2 percent, to \$13.75, after posting a loss in its fiscal fourth quarter and saying it expects another one in the current quarter. □



Peter Tuchman, right, works with fellow traders on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Friday, March 15, 2013. U.S. stocks closed the week down, ending the longest winning streak for the Dow Jones industrial average in nearly 17 years.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

Fund pays \$600M to settle insider trading charges

WASHINGTON (AP) — A hedge fund company will pay more than \$600 million in what federal regulators are calling the largest insider trading settlement.

The Securities and Exchange Commission said Friday that CR Intrinsic Investors has agreed to settle charges

es that it traded on non-public information about trials of an Alzheimer's drug.

The commission also settled charges against Sigma Capital Management for \$14 million. Sigma allegedly profited illegally from early information about the earnings of two technol-

ogy companies.

The cases stem from a long-running probe of insider trading by hedge funds, many of which are affiliated with SAC Capital Partners. CR Intrinsic was an affiliate of SAC. A separate SAC affiliate fund allegedly benefited from Sigma's actions. □

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CEO WATCH Ford CEO's pay falls to \$20.95 million in 2012

DEARBORN, Michigan (AP)

— Ford Motor Co. Chief Executive Alan Mulally's compensation fell 29 percent to \$20.95 million in 2012 as the company's board weighed record North American profits and quality improvements against heavy losses in Europe and lower market share in the U.S. and elsewhere. Ford reported Mulally's compensation Friday in its annual proxy filing with the federal government. Mulally earned \$2 million in salary, the same as he earned in 2011. But his bonus fell 27 percent to \$1.3 million and his stock awards dropped by half to \$6.8 million. Ford's earnings fell by \$300 million to \$5.66 billion in 2012, largely because of a \$1.75 billion loss in Europe. Ford also announced that its annual meeting will be held May 9 in Wilmington, Delaware. □

Citigroup pays its CEO Corbat \$12.4M in 2012

NEW YORK (AP) — Citigroup awarded its new CEO, Michael Corbat, a total of \$12.4 million last year. That's 17 percent less than the \$14.9 million his predecessor, Vikram Pandit, received in 2011. But Corbat, who replaced Pandit in October, was only in the top job for three months last year. Citigroup paid Pandit a total of \$9.5 million in 2012. Before replacing him, Corbat had been CEO of Citi's Europe, Middle East and Africa division. Once the country's biggest bank, Citigroup now ranks third behind JPMorgan Chase and Bank of America. AP's calculation counts salary, bonuses, perks, as well as stock and options awarded to executives during the year. The tally excludes changes in the value of pension benefits, and sometimes differs from the total compensation that companies list in their regulatory filings. □

Strong auto output boosts US factory production

C. S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A strong increase in auto output boosted U.S. fac-

tory production last month, the latest sign that manufacturing is helping drive economic growth after lagging for much of 2012, according to reports from the Federal Reserve, Friday, March 15, 2013.



Dietz Werland works on the assembly line at the Chrysler transmission plant in Kokomo, Ind. A strong increase in auto output boosted U.S. factory production last month, the latest sign that manufacturing is helping drive economic growth after lagging for much of 2012, according to reports from the Federal Reserve, Friday, March 15, 2013.

(AP Photo/AJ Mast)

tory production last month, the latest sign that manufacturing is helping drive economic growth after lagging for much of 2012. Factory output rose a seasonally adjusted 0.8 percent in February from Jan-

uary, after falling 0.3 percent in the previous month, the Federal Reserve said Friday. The biggest gain was in au-

tomist at Credit Suisse, said the healthy increase in output suggests manufacturers will need step up hiring in the months ahead. Factory job gains could rise to 20,000 a month, up from average gains of 13,000 in the past three months. The report adds to recent signs that manufacturing is picking up. A closely watched index of U.S. manufacturing activity increased in February for the third straight month. Big increases in new orders and production pushed the Institute for Supply Management's index to its highest level in 20 months. New car and truck sales rose 4 percent in February from a year earlier to an annual pace of 15.4 million. That's a big improvement from sales of only 10.4 million in 2009. It's still short of the pre-recession peak of 17 million in 2005. Auto makers are expected to have boosted output last month to keep up with the sales. Increasing factory output is contributing to an improved outlook for the economy this year. □

tion, which includes mining and utilities, rose 0.7 percent in February. That is the most in three months. Utility output jumped 1.6 percent while mining output, which covers oil and gas drilling, fell 0.3 percent, the third straight decline. The recovery in home construction and increased business investment in machinery and other goods are also boosting output. Production of construction supplies, which includes steel, cement and wood products, rose 1.5 percent. That was the fourth straight solid gain.

Factories also cranked out more industrial machinery, appliances, and furniture. "Growth has clearly picked up," Jim O'Sullivan, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics, said in a note to clients. "This is another positive sign" for the economy in the January-March quarter.

O'Sullivan forecasts that growth will jump to a 3 percent annual rate in the first quarter, after barely expanding in the final three months of last year.

Jonathan Basile, an econ-

omist at Credit Suisse, said the healthy increase in output suggests manufacturers will need step up hiring in the months ahead. Factory job gains could rise to 20,000 a month, up from average gains of 13,000 in the past three months. The report adds to recent signs that manufacturing is picking up. A closely watched index of U.S. manufacturing activity increased in February for the third straight month. Big increases in new orders and production pushed the Institute for Supply Management's index to its highest level in 20 months. New car and truck sales rose 4 percent in February from a year earlier to an annual pace of 15.4 million. That's a big improvement from sales of only 10.4 million in 2009. It's still short of the pre-recession peak of 17 million in 2005. Auto makers are expected to have boosted output last month to keep up with the sales. Increasing factory output is contributing to an improved outlook for the economy this year. □

Increasing factory output is contributing to an improved outlook for the economy this year. □

Carnival returns to profit; cruisers ignore mishaps

The Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — The world's largest cruise line has suffered through a number of high-profile mishaps. Yet passengers continue to book vacations thanks to discounts, albeit at a slower pace.

Carnival Corp. offered more sales to attract wary passengers after an engine fire last month crippled the Carnival Triumph, leaving 4,200 people stranded for five days without working toilets or power. This week, two more of its ships had mechanical problems, ruining the vacations of thousands more travelers. Carnival Corp. said Friday that it earned \$37 million, or 5 cents per share, in first quarter ended Feb. 28. That compares with a loss of \$139 million, or 18 cents per share, a year earlier. But its forecast for the year came in below analyst's

predictions. Its shares fell more than 2 percent.

On Thursday, the company ended the voyage of the Carnival Dream after the

of continuing back to Florida, Carnival was forced to charter airplanes to fly home the ship's 4,300 passengers. The Dream's next

will receive a refund for the cruise and airfare.

The company also said that another ship — the Legend — was having mechanical problems and would skip its stop at the Cayman Islands, heading straight to its final port in Tampa, Florida instead. Carnival runs cruises under 10 brands including Holland America, Princess, Cunard and its namesake line.

Vacationers have been wary about booking cruises ever since the Costa Concordia — also owned by Carnival — sank off the coast of Italy in January 2012. Passengers have returned to the seas, but many needed to be coaxed by deep discounts. Asked if they would like to share how deep the discounts have been for the various lines, Carnival executives replied, "Not particularly." □



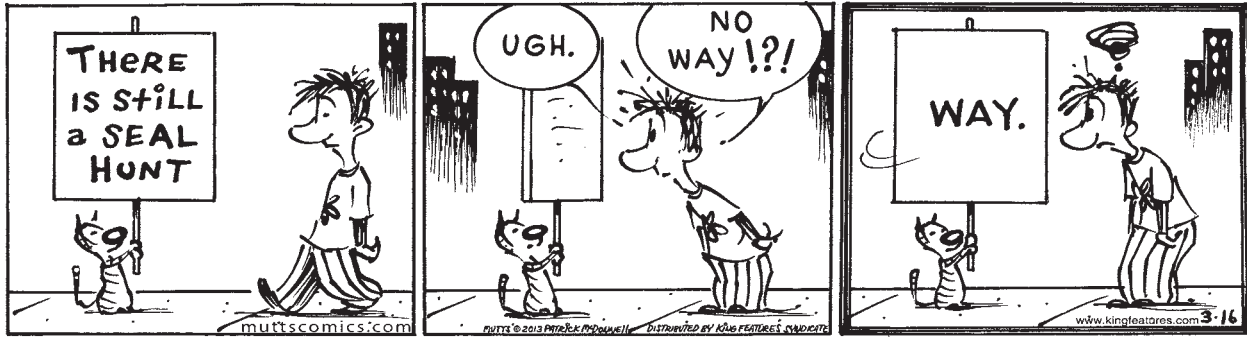
The Carnival Dream is docked in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. Carnival, the world's largest cruise line, has suffered through a number of high-profile mishaps, yet passengers continue to book vacations thanks to discounts, albeit at a slower pace.

(AP Photo/Andy Newman)

ship's backup emergency diesel generator failed, causing problems with elevators and toilets. Instead

trip, which was supposed to start Sunday, was canceled. All of the passengers scheduled for that voyage

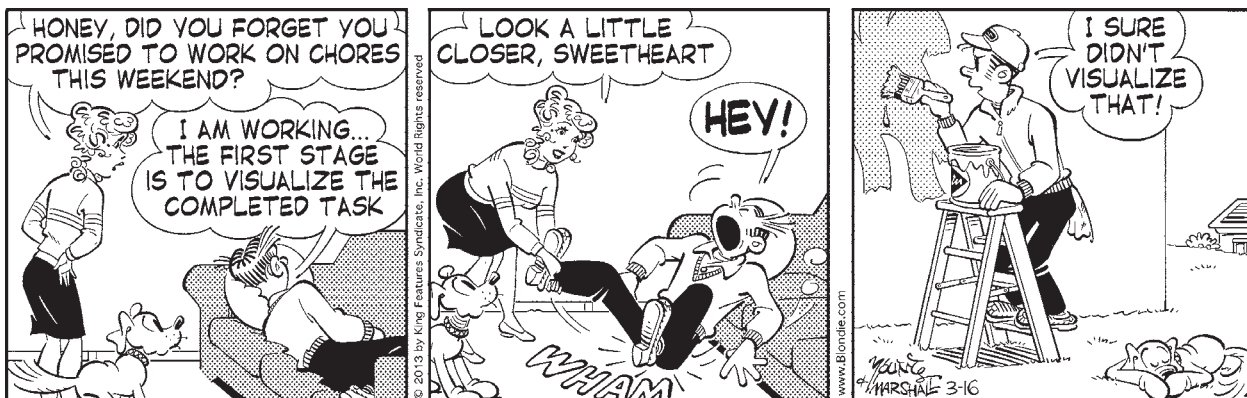
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			2		6			
9		6		8		2		3
		5						
5		8		4				6
3				2		8		5
						7		
2		3		5		4		9
			7		8			

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

3/16

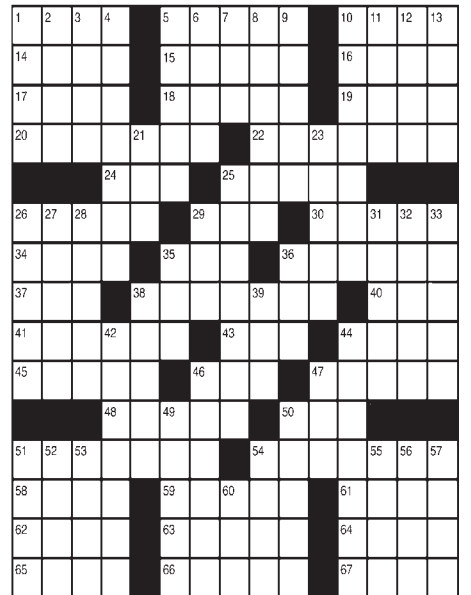
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

4	6	7	2	9	8	3	1	5
9	3	8	5	7	1	4	6	2
1	2	5	3	4	6	7	9	8
6	5	1	8	2	3	9	7	4
2	7	4	1	5	9	6	8	3
3	8	9	7	6	4	5	2	1
7	4	2	9	1	5	8	3	6
5	9	3	6	8	2	1	4	7
8	1	6	4	3	7	2	5	9

ACROSS

- Samms or Thompson
- Highways
- Chimps and gorillas
- Boyfriend
- Kolkata, —
- Thin board
- Gazzara and Vereen
- Be haughtily triumphant
- Neighbor of Bolivia
- Lacking details
- Actress Carroll
- like a bird; take little food
- High-IQ group
- Baseball or soccer
- Family member
- Location
- Story
- Forbid entry to
- Come back
- Like 3, 5 and 7
- Rower
- Father
- Give a sermon
- Cereal grain
- Dig for ore
- Good judgment
- Janitor's item
- Courted
- Beauty parlor
- Curved bone
- Less ornate
- High muckety-muck
- Goals
- Burr or Spelling
- Sticky strip
- Chicks
- Chunks of concrete
- if; albeit
- Pistols
- Uptight
- Pay a landlord



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

3/16/13

Friday's Puzzle Solved

KIT	TAPES	BRAY
ONES	ADAGE	IOTA
INCH	LUNGS	KOOK
SHAMELESS	JIMPS	
PINT	IAN	
SPRINT	PHONIST	
CRANK	PAINT	VIA
RING	RACES	SANK
ACT	NECKS	BADGE
MESSAGES	RUPEES	
LEA	BELL	
ALDA	THRILLING	
MEAL	TEASE	NEAT
INTO	AARON	GALE
EDAM	SPENT	RAN

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3/16/13

DOWN

- Diminishes
- Unassuming
- Lion's neck hair
- Stern and cold
- Correct

- Helps
- Mafia member
- Sense of self-confidence
- Hairpiece
- Minimum
- Dishwasher cycle
- Sudden pain
- In — of; as a substitute for
- To —; unanimously
- Hope & Barker
- Possess
- Ajar
- Camp shelter
- away; fled

Classifieds

What to do about workplace slackers

L.M. Sixel

© 2012 Houston Chronicle

Imagine waiting in line and an interloper starts easing in. Many people say nothing, possibly to avoid any confrontation. They ignore the bad behavior.

It's the same with slackers at work, said Kerry Patterson, co-author of the book "Crucial Conversations: Tools for Talking When Stakes Are High."

Co-workers and bosses are loath to confront slackers, said Patterson, a management consultant who saw that phenomenon 35 years ago. They may come in late, waste time sitting around and chatting instead of working, or neglect to finish their assignments on time.

Ninety-three percent of employees report they have co-workers who don't pull their weight, but only one in 10 confronts lackluster colleagues, said Patterson, who also co-authored "Crucial Confrontations."

Co-workers get frustrated at doing not only their own work, but also the work of their underperforming peers.

It's easier for a boss to turn to an eager, hardworking employee for an assignment than someone who may be grumpy or cause other problems, Patterson said. That, in turn, perpetuates the situation, especially if it's known that bad behavior has few consequences. But it doesn't have to be that way, Patterson said. People can learn to handle slacker co-workers. The key is to use facts rather than emotion, he said, set a good tone to avoid what he calls that "hazardous half-minute," and use tentative language. Take care with focus: Put the focus on yourself - "Did I miss the boat here?" - in discussing the problem, he said. That

defuses the situation and gives the speaker a major psychological edge.

Say a fellow team member isn't doing his assignments. Try something like: "My understanding is that I was going to do my part and you were going to do yours. I see you haven't done yours; what happened? This is the third time in the last four days it's not done. Can we talk about that, and what we can do to fix it?"

If there's a dispute over who is supposed to do what, suggest to your slacker co-worker that you should go to the boss to get some clarity. □

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18 Mrt. Dr. John Croes
19 Mrt. Dr. Horenbeek

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Could global warming change tornado season, too?

SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) —

With the planet heating up, many scientists seem fairly certain some weather elements like hurricanes and droughts will worsen. But tornadoes have them stumped.

These unpredictable, sometimes deadly storms plague the United States more than any other country. Here in tornado alley, Oklahoma City has been hit with at least 147 tornadoes since 1890.

But as the traditional tornado season nears, scientists have been pondering a simple question: Will there be more or fewer twisters as global warming increases? There is no easy answer. Lately, tornado activity in America has been Jekyll-and-Hyde weird, and scientists are unsure if climate change has played a role in recent erratic patterns. In 2011, the United States saw its second-deadliest tornado season in history: Nearly 1,700 tornadoes killed 553 people. The Joplin, Missouri, twister was the

single deadliest in American history, killing 158 people and causing \$2.8 billion in damage.

The following year, 2012, started even earlier and even busier. Through April there were twice as many tornadoes as normal. Then the twisters suddenly disappeared. Tornado activity from May to August of that year was the lowest in 60 years of record-keeping, said Harold Brooks, a top researcher at the National Weather Center.

Meanwhile, Canada saw an unusual number of tornadoes in 2012; Saskatchewan had three times the normal number.

That year, the jet stream moved north and "essentially shut down" tornadoes in the American Midwest said Greg Carbin, warning meteorologist at the federal storm center. A tremendous drought meant far fewer storms, which not only shut off the spigot on rain but on storm cells that spawned tornadoes.

For much of America, tornadoes are seasonal. Typically, there are more dur-



In this May 22, 2011 file photo, a man carries a young girl who was rescued after a tornado hit Joplin, Mo. In 2011 the United States saw one of the busiest tornado seasons in generations: Nearly 1,700 tornadoes that killed 553 people.

Associated Press

ing spring, and the numbers dwindle in the worst heat of the summer. Last year "essentially was an extended period of summertime conditions over the U.S.," Carbin said. "The real question is: What is spring now? Is it February?"

"Summer may be happening earlier and may be muscling out what we consider a transition between summer and winter," he said. The last two seasons aren't alone in illustrating extremes in tornado activity. Tornado record-keepers tally things like the most and least tornadoes in a month. Records for that category have been set 24 times over the past 60 years. Ten of those records have been set in the past decade — six for the fewest tornadoes and four for the most, Brooks said. Also, the three earliest starts of tornado season and the four latest have all occurred since 1997, he said.

What does that mean?

"We've had a dramatic increase in the variability of tornado occurrence," Brooks said.

The jet stream, a major player in tornado formation, has been in a state of flux, varying wildly in recent years, said Pennsylvania State University climate scientist Michael Mann.

"It's hard to predict future tornado seasons when we don't understand current tornado seasons," Brooks said between sessions at the National Tornado Summit here earlier this week. "We're not sure what's going to happen with the tornado numbers."

A new study in the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society looks at all sorts of extreme weather, how it is changing because of global warming and how things are predicted to change in the future. The study says tornadoes and the severe thunderstorms that spawn them are the hardest to predict.

Public opinion polls show Americans blame global warming for bad tornado outbreaks, but climate scientists say that's not quite right.

One reason scientists can't figure out how global warming might affect tornadoes is that twisters are usually small weather events that aren't easily simulated in large computer models. And records of tornadoes may not have been accurate over the years as twisters twirled unnoticed around unpopulated areas.

So Brooks and others are looking at the ingredients that cause tornadoes. But even that isn't simple. They look at two main factors: moist energy in the atmosphere and wind shear. Wind shear is the difference between wind at high altitudes and wind near the surface.

The more moist energy and greater the wind shear, the better the chances for tornadoes.

The atmosphere can hold more moisture as it warms, and it will likely be more unstable so that means more moist energy, several experts said.

But wind shear is another matter. Brooks and Stanford University scientist Noah Diffenbaugh think there will be less of that. □

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Gomez in an 'awkward' transition with 'Breakers'

RYAN PEARSON

AP Entertainment Writer
LOS ANGELES (AP) — "A little awkward" is how Selena Gomez describes her transition from Disney girl to Disney girl gone wild in the new R-rated independent film "Spring Breakers," in which she plays a bikini-clad and heavily armed college student bent on a good time with three friends and some drugs, sex and violence. "I am getting a little bit older, so I wanted to push myself and kind of get into a little bit more of an indie world. And it was a really great experience for me. And at the same time it has been, of course, a little awkward, but great," the 20-year-old Gomez said Thursday at the film's Hollywood premiere.

Known for her role on Disney's "Wizards of Waverly Place," Gomez actually began moving to a faster track as Justin Bieber's now

ex-girlfriend. "Honestly, it's been a weird transition. You never really know what's right or wrong and you can only do the best you can," she said.

Directed by art-house favorite Harmony Korine and also starring James Franco and Vanessa Hudgens of Disney's "High School Musical" fame, "Spring Breakers" follows four young women on a Florida coast vacation romp they financed with a diner robbery.

Some of Gomez's young fans were gathered outside the ArcLight Theatre hoping to catch a glimpse of the star. But she warned them not to go inside.

"I think they're really here to see me. I don't think they're here to see the movie," she said. "This was a little bit different. So yes, they shouldn't go see this." Gomez is also getting attention these days for her own recent reactions to her



Selena Gomez arrives at the LA premiere of "Spring Breakers" at the ArcLight Hollywood on Thursday, March 14, 2013 in Los Angeles. Associated Press

split with Bieber. A breakup song from her new album called "Rule The World" just leaked on the Internet. "Our love was made to rule

the world. You came and broke the perfect girl," she sings.

Commenting on the song, Gomez would only say,

"That's not my first single. But it was a song I recorded. But you'll get to know my album a little bit soon — sooner than later." □

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Cyndi Lauper just wants to have fun on Broadway

MARK KENNEDY

AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Writing her first musical turned into a time machine for Cyndi Lauper.

As the Grammy Award winner began work on the exuberant "Kinky Boots," it took her back to her childhood, where she was likely to be found listening endlessly to cast albums on a record player.

There was "There's No Business Like Show Business" and "My Fair Lady." And "South Pacific," of course. She remembers her grandmother coming downstairs and ripping "The King and I" off the player after one too many spins.

"My mother said I was a little odd as a kid," says Lauper, 59. "I was alone a lot but I didn't feel alone. When I sang with those records, I'd be Julie Andrews and there was Rex Harrison sitting on my mother's bed. I was Mitzi Gaynor. I was Ezio Pinza. I think she had



This Feb. 28, 2013 photo released by Starpix shows, Cyndi Lauper at the open house for the Upcoming Musical "Kinky Boots," featuring Music by Cyndi Lauper, at the Al Hirschfeld Theatre in New York.

Associated Press

Mary Martin, too — I was all of them. I was pretty good until they sang duets."

Sitting backstage at the Al Hirschfeld Theatre, waiting to catch another preview of her 15-song debut as a Broadway lyricist and composer, Lauper is both nervous and humble. The little girl who listened compulsively to show tunes has

now delivered her own. "It's the closest thing to being 5," she says.

"Kinky Boots," which opens April 4, is based on an obscure 2005 British film about a British shoe factory on the brink of ruin that retrofits itself into a maker of fetishistic footwear for drag queens.

The musical version has a

reworked story by Harvey Fierstein. It is directed and choreographed by Jerry Mitchell, with music supervised by Stephen Oremus. All three are Tony Award winners.

"I keep telling myself how lucky am I that the first thing I do on Broadway has Harvey and Jerry and Stephen Oremus — everyone a Tony winner," Lauper says. "C'mon, that's awesome!"

This isn't the first time the "Girls Just Want to Have Fun" singer has been asked to compose music for the stage. It took her old friend Fierstein, the book writer for "La Cage aux Folles" and "Newsies," to lure her out.

His new story helped: Fierstein has teased out the friendship between the straight factory owner and the factory-saving transvestite who suggests the boot switch, who bond over their harsh fathers.

The show embraces acceptance and tolerance,

things long championed by Lauper, whose True Colors Fund has called for an end to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth homelessness.

"It's about outsiders, it's about people overcoming their differences for the greater good. Of course this would speak to me," she says, laughing. "Who the hell else would it speak to?"

Lauper and Fierstein have developed a joking mentor-mentee relationship that draws on the classic "Mommie Dearest" film. Fierstein calls her "Tina" and signs his notes "Mommy."

Fierstein says converting a pop composer into a Broadway one wasn't easy but Lauper was game. He needed songs that propel the action rather than restate a theme, as pop tunes do. He also needed to teach her that a song can be good but it might not fit the space needed. □

Carole King musical eyes Broadway stage



In this Nov. 30, 2011 file photo, musician Carole King attends the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree lighting in New York. Associated Press

MARK KENNEDY
AP Drama Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — A musical based on the woman behind such pop standards as "It's Too Late," "You've Got a Friend" and "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman" hopes to make it to Broadway. Producers on Friday announced plans to take "Beautiful: The Carole King Musical" to the Great White Way by spring 2014. The

story is written by Academy Award-nominated filmmaker Douglas McGrath. King composed dozens of 1960s hits with then-husband Gerry Goffin before emerging as a recording artist in her own right. Her 25 million-selling "Tapestry" launched the singer-songwriter era in 1971 and became the first real blockbuster album.

The musical will chart King's rise set to the music that made her an icon.

Many of her songs became known through others, like "Pleasant Valley Sunday" (the Monkees), "Crying in the Rain" (Everly Brothers), "Take Good Care of My Baby" (Bobby Vee) and "You've Got a Friend" (James Taylor).

King's pre-"Tapestry" hits also included "Up on the Roof" (Drifters), "Loco-Motion" (Little Eva), "Will You Love Me Tomorrow" (Shirelles), "One Fine Day" (Chiffons) and "Chains" (Cookies, later covered by the Beatles). □

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After The Flimflam



PAUL KRUGMAN
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It has been a big week for budget documents. In fact, members of Congress have presented not one but two full-fledged, serious proposals for spending and taxes over the next decade. Before I get to that, however, let me talk briefly about the third proposal presented this week – the one that isn't serious, that's essentially a cruel joke.

Way back in 2010, when everybody in Washington seemed determined to anoint Rep. Paul Ryan as the ultimate Serious, Honest Conservative, I pronounced him a flimflam man. Even then, his proposals were obviously fraudulent: huge cuts in aid to the poor, but even bigger tax cuts for the rich, with all the assertions of fiscal responsibility resting on claims that he would raise trillions of dollars by closing tax loopholes (which he refused to specify) and cutting discretionary spending (in ways he refused to specify).

Since then, his budgets have gotten even flimflammier. For example, at this point, Ryan is claiming that he can slash the top tax rate from 39.6 percent to 25 percent, yet somehow raise 19.1 percent of GDP in revenues – a number we haven't come close to seeing since the dot-com bubble burst a dozen years ago.

The good news is that Ryan's thoroughly unconvincing policy-wonk act seems, finally, to have worn out its welcome. In 2011, his budget was initially treated with worshipful respect, which faded only slightly as critics pointed out the document's many absurdities. This time around, quite a few pundits and reporters have greeted his release with the derision it deserves.

And, with that, let's turn to the serious proposals.

Unless you're a very careful news reader, you've probably only heard about one of these proposals, the one released by Senate Democrats. And let's be clear: By comparison with the Ryan plan, and for that matter with a lot of what passes for wisdom in our nation's capital, this is a very reasonable plan indeed. As many observers have pointed out, the Senate Democratic plan is conservative with a small "c": It avoids any drastic policy changes. In particular, it steers away from draconian austerity, which is simply not needed given ultralow U.S. borrowing costs

and relatively benign medium-term fiscal projections.

True, the Senate plan calls for further deficit reduction, through a mix of modest tax increases and spending cuts. (Incidentally, the tax increases still fall well short of those called for in the Bowles-Simpson plan, which Washington, for some reason, treats as something close to holy scripture.) But it avoids large short-run spending cuts, which would hobble our recovery at a time when unemployment is still disastrously high, and it even includes a modest amount of stimulus spending.

So we could definitely do worse than the Senate Democratic plan, and we probably will. It is, however, an extremely cautious proposal, one that doesn't follow through on its own analysis. After all, if sharp spending cuts are a bad thing in a depressed economy – which they are – then the plan really should be calling for substantial though temporary spending increases. It doesn't.

But there's a plan that does: The proposal from the Congressional Progressive Caucus, titled "Back to Work," which calls for substantial new spending now, temporarily widening the deficit, offset by major deficit reduction later in the next decade, largely though not entirely through higher taxes on the wealthy, corporations and pollution.

I've seen some people describe the caucus proposal as a "Ryan plan of the left," but that's unfair. There are no Ryan-style magic asterisks, trillion-dollar savings that are assumed to come from unspecified sources; this is an honest proposal. And "Back to Work" rests on solid macroeconomic analysis, not the fantasy "expansionary austerity" economics – the claim that slashing spending in a depressed economy somehow promotes job growth rather than deepening the depression – that Ryan continues to espouse despite the doctrine's total failure in Europe. No, the only thing the progressive caucus and Ryan share is audacity. And it's refreshing to see someone break with the usual Washington notion that political "courage" means proposing that we hurt the poor while sparing the rich. No doubt the caucus plan is too audacious to have any chance of becoming law; but the same can be said of the Ryan plan.

So where is this all going? Realistically, we aren't likely to get a Grand Bargain any time soon. Nonetheless, my sense is that there is some real movement here, and it's in a direction conservatives won't like.

As I said, Ryan's efforts are finally starting to get the derision they deserve, while progressives seem, at long last, to be finding their voice. Little by little, Washington's fog of fiscal flimflam seems to be lifting. □



Politics By Intimidation

JOE NOCERA
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Three days before the December massacre in Newtown, Conn., a 22-year-old gunman named Jacob Tyler Roberts opened fire at the Clackamas Town Center, a suburban shopping mall in Portland, Ore. He killed two people before killing himself, though it could have been much worse. His stolen semiautomatic AR-15 rifle jammed early in his shooting spree.

Ginny Burdick, 65, a veteran state legislator, is probably the fiercest gun control advocate in the Oregon Senate. In recent years, however, as the chairwoman of the Senate Finance and Revenue Committee, she had focused most of her attention on tax policy and budgetary issues. Then came the horrors of Clackamas and Newtown.

"I said to my fellow legislators, 'Sorry folks, I have to put this back on the front burner,'" she told me the other day. She had already sponsored a bill to limit magazines to 10 rounds or less. She immediately sponsored several other bills, including one requiring background checks for private gun sales. (Thanks largely to Burdick, Oregon was one of the few states that had already closed the "gun-show loophole.") Another would make it illegal for people with concealed carry licenses to take their guns into an Oregon school.

"We were in the middle of a special session on a very important tax bill," she said. "I was right on the middle of it. I said, 'We're going back to guns.'"

Although there is widespread gun ownership in Oregon, Burdick has consistently been re-elected because most of the state's gun owners – like many gun owners across the country – are in favor of sensible gun regulation. But



most of Burdick's initiatives over the years have been thwarted by the National Rifle Association, which strikes fear in Oregon legislators, just as it does lawmakers across the country.

Which is also why Burdick felt so strongly that Clackamas and Newtown, horrible though they were, offered a unique opportunity. Many gun extremists, however, realized the same thing. They fought back. In mid-January, two men began walking around a Portland neighborhood with assault weapons strapped to their backs. Even as schools in the area were locking down, the men insisted that they were "educating the public" about their Second Amendment rights. A month later, at a pro-gun rally at the state Capitol, a number of gun owners openly wielded their weapons – even bringing them into the building.

Burdick began receiving, as she puts it, "the usual threatening emails" – as did a fellow gun control advocate in the Legislature, Mitch Greenlick. He told The Oregonian that the email he received from gun extremists was often abusive, obscene and anti-Semitic. He predicted that gun legislation would go nowhere because legislators were

too frightened to act. "Politics by intimidation," he called it.

And then there was Burdick. She was scheduled to hold a town-hall meeting on March 4. But at an earlier town hall held by several other legislators, gun advocates badgered them with angry questions. One of the questioners admitted he was carrying a concealed weapon. Fearing that someone might show up with a gun at her town hall, Burdick decided to postpone it. Not wanting to inflame the situation, she said she had a scheduling conflict.

On the evening of March 4, two men sat in a car across from her home and videotaped her. They showed her driving into her garage and taking out her garbage. Having "proved" that Burdick did not have a scheduling conflict, they then put together a short video of Burdick at home. Jeff Reynolds, the chairman of the Multnomah County Republican Party, who also claims to be a citizen journalist, posted the video on a website he runs.

When I spoke to Reynolds, he conceded that the videographer was a friend but refused to divulge his name. He said the video had nothing to do with the gun issue. "She lied," he told me. "She is accountable to we the people."

He added, "This was no different than what Mike Wallace used to do at '60 Minutes.' There was no intimidation." Sure.

These days, Democrats control both houses of the Oregon Legislature as well as the governor's office. Moderate Republicans running against incumbent Democrats are being beaten in legislative races. The Republicans even lack a credible candidate to take on the current governor, John Kitzhaber, in 2014. □

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